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## Tamiya Announces 1:35 scale BT-42

Tamiya has announced that they will release a Finnish BT-42 Assault Gun in July. This fascinating improvised vehicle was based on the captured chassis of Soviet BT-7 tanks. The model was produced with the co-operation of the Parola Tank Museum in Finland.

Features will include the characteristic massive superstructure, shortened front fenders, storage boxes on side fenders, and specific tools to the type. Photo-etched parts are supplied to depict the side plates of the mantlet and engine grilles.

A Commander figure and three marking options will round out this interesting package.

Also available in July will be a new set of German Military Police figures, and kit no. 35322, an Israeli Tank M1 Super Sherman. Both of these releases will be in 1:35 scale. More details and images will be available closer to release.



together from the soldiers who have generously given their time to be interviewed to the team behind putting the exhibits together.

For more information on the new exhibition or the events going on throughout the Easter holidays, visit [www.tankmuseum.org](http://www.tankmuseum.org)

## Breakdown Recovery Helmand-Style

A major multinational exercise held at Camp Bastion has demonstrated how International Security Assistance Force combat vehicles are recovered in the event of breakdown, being bogged down or being disabled by enemy action in Afghanistan.

Hosted by the British Theatre Equipment Support Battalion, the high-profile interoperability exercise (IOX) was attended by UK, US, Danish, Estonian and Afghan forces.

The exercise was not only an opportunity to demonstrate current multinational procedures, but also to ensure compliance between the different nations.

Warrant Officer Tucker, who helped organise the event, said: "It was a very successful exercise, which reinforced the links between the various nations so that we are all working together to prove that we will be able to improve our rate of success in recovery operations across Helmand."

The IOX began with a small Springer vehicle racing from the bowels of a Chinook helicopter, manned by

two British Army recovery mechanics.

The Springer normally carries all the basic equipment to assist in the recovery of a vehicle. Its crew headed towards a Jackal patrol vehicle which was lying on its side. They attached two cables, and, in no time at all, the disabled vehicle was righted and a 'casualty' successfully extracted.

The various demonstrations which made up the IOX included a US Marine Corps M88 Hercules (Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lift and Evacuation System) raised by a Danish Wisent 8x8 armoured logistics vehicle, and a Wisent being winched from deep mud and recovered onto a US Army heavy equipment trailer. The success of the latter demanded precision measurement with not a centimetre to spare.

The Afghan National Army recovery crew demonstrated the use of their international wrecker to lift a vehicle onto their medium tactical vehicle.

Finally, a 26-tonne UK Support Vehicle (Recovery) was recovered from deep mud by the Danish Wisent and a US M88; the combination of both vehicles giving a joint pulling power of 200 tonnes.

## Afghanistan Exhibition Launches at The Tank Museum

For the first time, people will be able to hear soldiers' untold stories from Afghanistan's frontline in a poignant new exhibition at The Tank Museum.

In front of a crowd of more than 200 VIPs, Trooper Tom Barraclough of 2nd Royal Tank Regiment, cut the ceremonial barbed wire to officially launch the significant Battlegroup Afghanistan.

Battlegroup Afghanistan is set in a recreated Forward Operating Base (FOB), as used by troops in Helmand, and tells the story of the ongoing conflict from the perspective of the armoured soldier.

Using the soldiers' own words from exclusive Tank Museum interviews, the exhibition brings to life a side of the

war in Afghanistan often unheard and unseen by the wider public: personal experiences, emotions and what it's like working on foot searching for IEDs instead of inside armoured tanks.

As well as a unique display of armoured vehicles currently in use in Helmand, the recreated FOB features a lookout station; soldiers' living quarters complete with the types of personal possessions used to make them as homely as possible; and even makeshift bathroom facilities as commonly used by troops in the Afghan desert.

Among the VIP guests there to witness the launch were a number of the soldiers themselves who

had contributed their stories to the exhibition and the families of servicemen who have lost their lives during to the war and whose memories the exhibition hopes to preserve.

In his address, the chairman of The Tank Museum trustees Major General Peter Gilchrist CB said: "Many people in the UK do not really understand the magnitude of what our troops have been facing, but through this exhibition we hope to help bring it to life."

David Willey, curator at The Tank Museum, added: "The launch of Battlegroup Afghanistan is a major milestone for the Museum. Everyone has worked extremely hard to bring this exhibition





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Front view of a Jackal I. This vehicle is currently in service with the 13th Air Assault Support Regiment.

Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.



Front quarter view of a Jackal I at Colchester, July 2010.

Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.

# JACKAL MWMIK AND COYOTE TSV

Stuart Ransley describes the Jackal 1, Jackal 2 and Coyote high mobility wheeled vehicles.

**T**he Jackal MWMIK (Mobility Weapon-Mounted Installation Kit) was originally ordered by the Ministry of Defence as an Operational Urgent Requirement for the British armed forces in both Afghanistan & Iraq but to date it has only seen service in Afghanistan. The MoD stated, the Jackal was built to meet the British Army's specific requirements for an agile, well-armed, light patrol vehicle.

The Jackal was initially chosen by the MoD as it performed well in trials in comparison to the WMIK and Snatch Land Rovers, which did not have the required mobility over rough terrain. The Land Rover Wolf WMIK (Weapon-Mounted Installation Kit) had become a symbol of the British Military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. It was originally chosen for patrol duties instead of armoured fighting vehicles, due to the hearts and minds policy that is followed by British Forces. They

have been successful to a certain extent but following a spate of incidents, particularly with IEDs there has been concern that the unarmoured nature of the Wolf exposes the crews to excessive danger. The Land Rover Snatch had been used to supplement the Wolf but whilst the Snatch gave protection against small arms fire it proved vulnerable to mines and IEDs and didn't carry the weaponry that the WMIK did. The terrain and distances in both Iraq and Afghanistan also showed the need for a vehicle with a greater performance off road and heavier armament than what was currently in use.

The Jackal family of vehicles is designed by Supacat in Honiton, Devon, but are manufactured by New Babcock subsidiary, Devonport Management Ltd (DML). The vehicles are built at their Devonport dockyard in Plymouth, as part of a larger diversification to reduce the company's dependence on dwindling ship-building

contracts for the Royal Navy.

In April 2009, the two firms formalised their alliance. A single project office, located at Dunkswell, was established in Devon to provide overall control. Supacat is the authority, responsible for design, development, prototyping, integration and overall program management. Babcock is responsible for detailed production planning, purchasing and manufacture. Other industrial partners include:

- Allison (transmission)
- Cummins (engine)
- Frazer-Nash systems engineering consultancy (assistance during testing and trials)
- Universal Engineering (chassis).

So far, Britain has ordered over 565 vehicles:

- 202 Jackal 1s
- 120+ Jackal 2s
- 140 Jackal 2As
- 70+ Coyote TSV-Ls..

The first Jackal 1 vehicles entered service in November 2007, and were in theatre in early 2008. The Jackal 2s entered service in August 2009, as did the cargo-carrying Coyote TSV-L.

## JACKAL

The Jackal is a high mobility weapons platform. The vehicle has a unique air suspension system which allows rapid movement across varying types of terrain. The Jackal's suspension system gives a more stable firing platform while moving. The resulting high levels of off-road mobility enable troops to avoid the more conventional routes which may be subject to ambush or enemy reconnaissance.

The Jackal is used for reconnaissance, rapid assault, fire support and convoy protection. It has an operational range of over 700km, a maximum speed of 129 km/h (80mph) on roads or 89km/h (55mph) over rough terrain, and weighs seven tonnes.





Side view of a Jackal I showing stowage and top gunner's position.  
Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.

The vehicle is armed with a 7.62mm General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) as crew protection and can carry either .50 cal Heavy Machine Gun or 40 mm Automatic Grenade Launcher as the main weapon system in the fire support role. Due to the open crew compartment, personnel weapons can be also be brought to bear. A Smoke Grenade system is also fitted to the front and rear of the vehicle. The new variant Jackal 2 is due for operational deployment in 2010.

The specifications for the Jackal are:

- Weight of 6,650kg
- Length of 5.39 m
- Width of 2.00 m
- Height of 1.97 m (not including weapon system)
- Crew 3

The Jackal can be armoured to give mine and ballistic protection to the floor and sides of the vehicle, but leaving the top of the cabin open. This system was developed in conjunction with Jankel Armouring Ltd and



Rear view of Jackal I.  
Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.



.50 cal gunner's position on Jackal I.  
Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.

is considered to be among the best in the world. However Jackal crews have suffered a number of casualties to IED attacks.

#### JACKAL 2

The Jackal 2 is an improved version of the original vehicle. The

armour is now an integral part of the vehicle and not just an add-on. It is heavier than the original Jackal and it has a 6.7 litre engine instead of the 5.9 litre fitted to the former but maintains a similar performance. It has space for a fourth crew member and a greater

load carrying capability. The main armament has been moved more to the front of the vehicle. This allows the operator of the main weapon to depress the gun further, which enables the gunner to engage targets that are a lot closer to the vehicle. ►



Close-up detail view of rear of Jackal I. Note the different colour on the aerial mounts and rear of the vehicle.  
Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces



Driver's and front gunner's positions on Jackal I. Note the thickness of the armoured doors.  
Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces



Driver's position in a Jackal I showing details of the dash etc.  
Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.





# Think Tank - Jackal MWMIK and Coyote TSV



Side view of a Jackal I showing spare wheel stowage.  
Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.



Spare wheel and stowage positions on a Jackal I.  
Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.

## COYOTE TSV L

The Coyote is a high mobility tactical support vehicle with a unique air suspension system which allows rapid movement across varying types of terrain. It is a 6x6 derivative of the Jackal 2 and was designed to support the operations involving Units equipped with the 4x4 Jackal. The Coyote TSV can reach destinations where other transport vehicles or air assets cannot go without huge risk. The vehicle is able to carry 1.5 tonnes of supplies. The Coyote weighs 10.5 tonnes compared to 6.65 tonnes for the Jackal 2. It has an operational range of over 700km and has a maximum speed of 129km/h (80mph) on roads or 89km/h (55mph) over rough terrain.

Specifications for the Coyote

- Length - 7040mm
- Width - 2050mm
- Height - 1885mm min 2445mm max
- Ground Clearance - 180mm min

485mm max  
• Weight (GVM) - 10500kg

The vehicle is armed with a 7.62mm General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) as crew protection and can carry either .50 cal Heavy Machine Gun or 40 mm Automatic Grenade Launcher as the main weapon system in the fire support role. Due to the open crew compartment, personnel weapons can be also be brought to bear. A Smoke Grenade system is also fitted to the front of the vehicle. The Coyote TSV can also be armoured to give the same mine and ballistic protection to the floor and sides of the vehicle as the Jackal, but again leaving the top of the cabin open. This system was developed in conjunction with Jankel Armouring Ltd and is considered to be among the best in the world. 70 of these vehicles have been ordered by the Ministry of Defence, with the first Coyote

entering service in 2009.

The Jackal family of vehicles are in service with the British SAS, RAF Regiment, 3 Commando Brigades Patrol Troop and 16 Air Assaults Pathfinder Platoon. The vehicles have been highly successful and have also entered service with a number of other countries including Australia, with the SAS Regiment as the Nary SOV. 31 vehicles were purchased as a "one off" in Oct 2008 with the 31st vehicle entering service in January 2009. These vehicles were purchased as phase 1A, Special Operations Vehicle of Project Redfin. ■

Special thanks go to Jon Baker of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces, [www.paradata.org.uk](http://www.paradata.org.uk), who provided most of the photos used in this Think Tank.

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Supacat,  
<http://www.supacat.com>  
Elite UK Forces  
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<http://www.defensefile.com>  
Department of Defence, Australia Projects,  
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Defence Imagery.mil  
[www.defenceimagery.mil](http://www.defenceimagery.mil)



Close-up of front gunner's armour plating on Coyote TSV.  
Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.



Close-up on driver and front gunner's stations for Coyote TSV.  
Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.



Close-up of .50 cal gunner's position on Coyote TSV.  
Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.





Close-up of rear cargo bed on Coyote TSV.

Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.



Detail view from rear of Coyote TSV.

Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.



Rear view of Coyote TSV.

Photo courtesy of Airborne Assault: The Museum of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.



British troops patrol in a Coyote TSV (light) around Kandahar Air Field, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, August.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Ashley Moreno U.S. Air Force.



Husky is a new protected support vehicle, providing commanders with a highly mobile and flexible load carrying vehicle. This has been designed for a range of Afghanistan missions, including transporting food, water and ammunition, and acting as a command vehicle at headquarters. Some vehicles will be fitted out as protected ambulances. Equipped with a machine gun, Husky will join its sister vehicles Wolfhound and Coyote as part of the £350m Tactical Support Vehicle programme.

Photo - Andrew Linnett, MOD. Crown Copyright.





**HBB82452**  
1:35 U.S. M3A1 "White Scout Cat" Late Production



**HBB82446**  
1:35 BJ2022JC Yong Shi

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**MAS3561**  
1:35 Rommel DAK WWII Era



**MAS3592**  
1:35 Hand-to-Hand Fight,  
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**MAS35100**  
1:35 German Military Car Type 170V  
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## SOVIET DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY



35045  
1:35

**MIN35045** 1:35 Soviet Divisional Artillery

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35071  
1:35

**MIN35071** 1:35 British Soldiers Tank Riders

## BRITISH INFANTRY TANK VALENTINE MK.I w/CREW



35116  
1:35

**MIN35116** 1:35 British Infantry Tank Valentine Mk.I w/crew

## U.S. TANK CREW



35126  
1:35

**MIN35126** 1:35 U.S. Tank Crew

## BRITISH TANK CREW WINTER UNIFORM



35121  
1:35

**MIN35121** 1:35 British Tank Crew Winter Uniform

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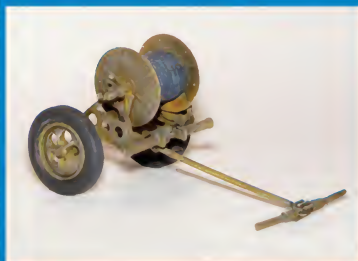
**PLU394**  
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# SAME NAME DIFFERENT DOG

**T**he British Army has introduced a new range of light vehicles that are better able to meet the needs of the modern battlefield. Two prominent vehicles are the Jackal 4x4 and its bigger cousin the Coyote 6x6 TSV (Tactical Support Vehicle). The Jackal is intended for patrol and reconnaissance. The Coyote, with the additional axle and a flat bed in the back, was designed in a support role for the Jackal.

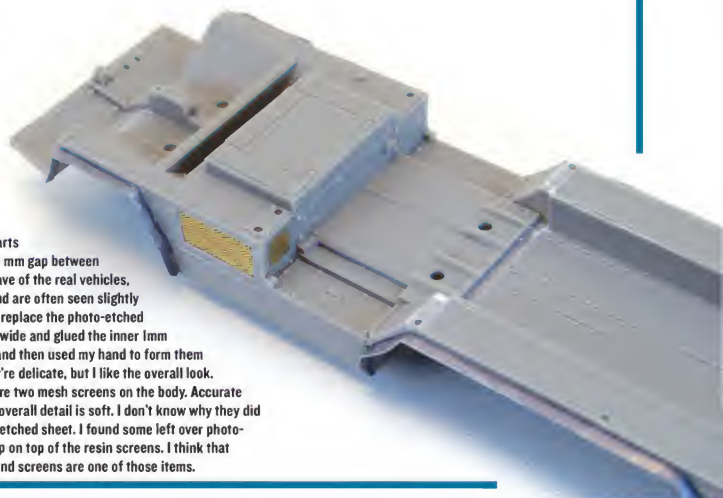
Recently, Accurate Armour released kits of both of these vehicles. The kit itself is mainly resin but also comes with an extensive photo-etched sheet and a super set of decals with all of the little markings that are placed all over the vehicle. The instructions are in full colour and are actually the same as for the Jackal. These instructions do a great job of not only explaining the build process but also showing where all of the little decals go. ■

**Jim Wechsler** builds Accurate Armour's 1:35 scale multimedia British Army Coyote TSV.

## Getting Started

The first step is to assemble the main body. This is just made up from a front and back half. The front half is the same as the Jackal and the back half is elongated for the third pair of wheels and the flat bed. The fit is decent but there is some clean up and putty work needed since the mating faces are also where the casting gates are located, but overall it's a pretty straightforward job.

With the body parts fitted, it is now time to attach the small dust fenders that protrude from the wheel wells. Accurate Armour provides these as a series of photo-etched parts but they are too short and will leave about a 1mm gap between the sections. In looking at the few photos I have of the real vehicles, these appear to be made of flexible rubber and are often seen slightly bent and warped. I therefore thought I would replace the photo-etched parts with strips of lead foil. I cut them 3mm wide and glued the inner 1mm to the well. Once dry, I trimmed off the ends and then used my hand to form them into the shape I could see in the photos. They're delicate, but I like the overall look. Finally, just behind the front left wheel well are two mesh screens on the body. Accurate Armour moulded these into the resin but the overall detail is soft. I don't know why they did this since they already include a large photo-etched sheet. I found some left over photo-etched screens and cut out two pieces to drop on top of the resin screens. I think that some things are just better in photo-etched and screens are one of those items.

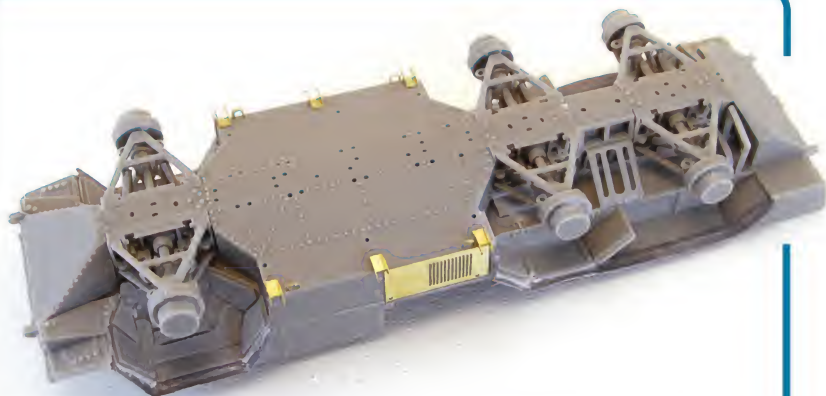






### Suspension

Accurate Armour has designed the suspension for the Coyote to be built as a standalone assembly. This is a very good decision since there are a lot of parts and trying to fit them together on the vehicle would be tough. Instead you build them right off a main back panel, which makes it easy. Overall, the design and parts are nicely done with some minor mould shift and the pour blocks being the only clean up required. The parts are left and right handed but the only difference is that part #9 is placed on the left or right side.

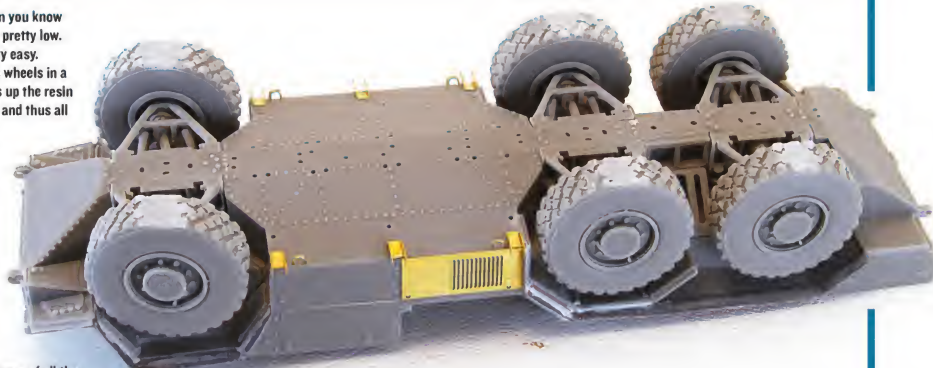


### Lower Hull Details

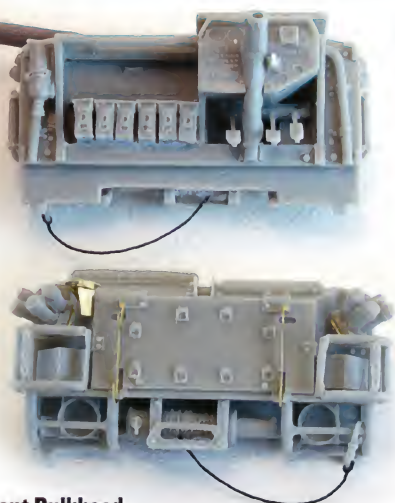
With the suspension assembled, the next step is to mount it to the hull and attach a number of other parts on the lower hull. The suspension mounts easily but I recommend sanding the mating surfaces so the CA glue gets a strong bite. Once the suspension is mounted, the next pieces are the armour plating inserts for the wheel wells. Here the fit is not terribly good. I did a bunch of trimming but still ended up with some big gaps. Thankfully, my favourite technique of using a cotton swab dipped in nail polish remover worked well and I was able to avoid sanding the putty. There are also a few other resin support parts, a couple of photo-etched pieces, and some small footsteps to be bent out of brass rod. All are pretty straightforward.

### Wheels

If you've ever built a wheeled vehicle (plastic or resin) then you know that the chances of all the wheels touching the ground are pretty low. Fortunately, there are a few tricks to make fixing this pretty easy. First, after gluing the wheels in place I set the model on its wheels in a tub of hot water and pressed lightly on the hull. This heats up the resin a bit and will generally allow the suspension to give a little and thus all of the wheels will end up touching the ground. Second, I get out the hair dryer and heat the suspension of each wheel one at a time. While hot, I will adjust the wheel to be vertical and also pointing straight back and forth. This job is time consuming since you will probably need to do it many times over for each wheel. I also took this opportunity to turn the front wheels a bit. It's a cheat since I simply deformed the suspension but you really can't see it if you keep the wheel turn reasonably low (no more than 10 degrees). Third, I rubbed the entire vehicle on a fresh sheet of 220 grit sandpaper. The key is to NOT press very hard and instead let the sand paper work. I make many passes varying the direction. Eventually (5 to 10 minutes) the bottoms of all the wheels are sanded flat and the vehicle sits firmly on the ground. Even though I'm going to have the Coyote mounted on open terrain, I still like to do this to be sure I'm starting from a level point.



**“If you’ve ever built a wheeled vehicle, then you know that the chances of all the wheels touching the ground are pretty low...”**



### Front Bulkhead

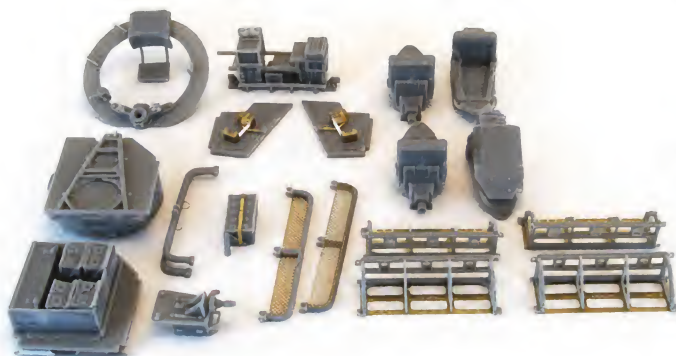
The Coyote doesn't really have a body. It's more of a tubular frame with armour plates and equipment mounted on it. However, there is a front bulkhead. On the aft face are the driver's dash board and the gas, brake, and clutch pedals along with the steering column. To the left of those are spare ammo boxes and a fire extinguisher. Facing forward are the corner mounts for the smoke dischargers, the front winch, and the hooks where the metal un-ditching plates are attached. Assembly is pretty straightforward, although you have to study the instruction quite a bit to understand where the parts are to be fitted. I found that referring to the box top photo and some other photos later in the instructions helped a lot.

### Roll Bar

The next step was to assemble the main roll bar that is located about midway along the floor. Accurate Armour indicates that you should complete the parts as a sub-assembly and then glue it to the body. Alternatively, I felt that it would be much easier to leave off the support bars until I had the main roll bar mounted to the body. This way I could use the roll bar and body to properly position the supports and avoid an interference issue.







### Sub-Assemblies

There are a whole series of steps in the instructions for making a number of sub-assemblies that are later attached to the vehicle. None of this work is too tough and there is just the usual clean of the sprue attachments to handle. But there are a lot of sub-assemblies so this step does take up a lot of time.

### Weapons Mount

The next steps in the instructions are to build the weapon mount platform and the supports, but there are a couple things to keep in mind. First, the photos in the instructions are not exactly a step-by-step guide like typical plastic kits. You really need to look forward a few photos to understand what else must be mounted so you can decide the best order. In this case, I realised that the dual roll bars (assembly #22) sit on top of the large front bulkhead so it made sense to mount it first and use it as a reference for the position of the weapons mounts support. Also, I saw that the communications gear (assembly #9) installs beneath the weapons mount platform. The gear is shown as being in green so, if you glue it in place, it will be quite hard to paint later. In the end, I didn't glue the platform to the supports so I can glue assembly #9 in place after painting. This way I can access all of these items much easier with the airbrush.



### Machine Gun and Gunner

The last step in finishing off the centre section is to mount the .50 cal MG and the gunner. The Accurate Armour figure set includes a guy designed to be holding the gun and sitting on the small seat, but when I went to place him on seat, his leg position hit the communications gear. I am not sure what was going on as the fit wasn't even close. I ended up cutting both legs at the knees and repositioning the feet so they hung down a lot more. This fixed the problem. Then I shaved a little more off his lower bottom to slide him a little further back and then he fit in the weapon's ring so that the .50 cal didn't hit him. Finally, I adjusted the .50 cal so he was grabbing it and looking through the site. That too is a tough job since there a lot of variables to manipulate and getting them all in place is a trial and error kind of effort. Once I had gotten the figure's parts in place and holding the .50 cal, I added the lower mounts for the .50 cal (not shown in the photo) and the assembly was complete. Of course the bumper is that the figure is now glued to the weapons mounts (the whole assembly is still loose though) so I'll have to paint the figure in place. Tough but doable. Without a doubt, this was the toughest step so far. There's always something, especially in a resin kit, and this was it.



### Machine Guns

The Coyote carries two machine guns. Both are nicely represented by Accurate Armour. However, there are a couple of issues with the .50 cal MG. The first problem is that Accurate Armour put a pour block attachment right at the end of the barrel. Try as I might, I simply couldn't remove the pour block and keep the tiny barrel round. Being right at the end of the barrel, it's a very noticeable problem. I couldn't live with the results so I replaced the barrel with a nice brass one from Lionmarc.

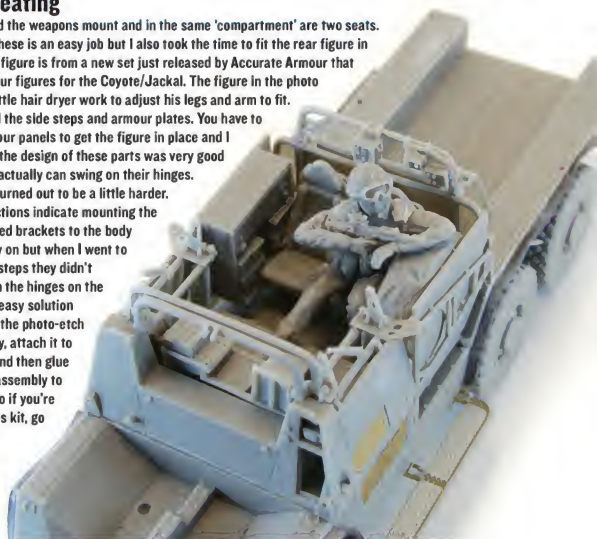
The other problem is that the instructions seem to have missed calling out a few parts on the mount – gun linkage. I e-mailed Derek at Accurate Armour and he provided me this information. *"One image is missing from the J2/Coyote instructions but it is on the J1 set. It is the middle step. Part 106 joins end of 105 to bottom of 113 Part 115 joins to the quadrant on the RHS of 111 Part 112 bridges between 105 & 106"*

*If that does not make sense let me know and I'll get the picture and send it to you."* I was able to sort out where all the parts go from this information but if you're building this kit or the Jackal, feel free to e-mail Accurate Armour for an additional photo for more help.

### Rear Seating

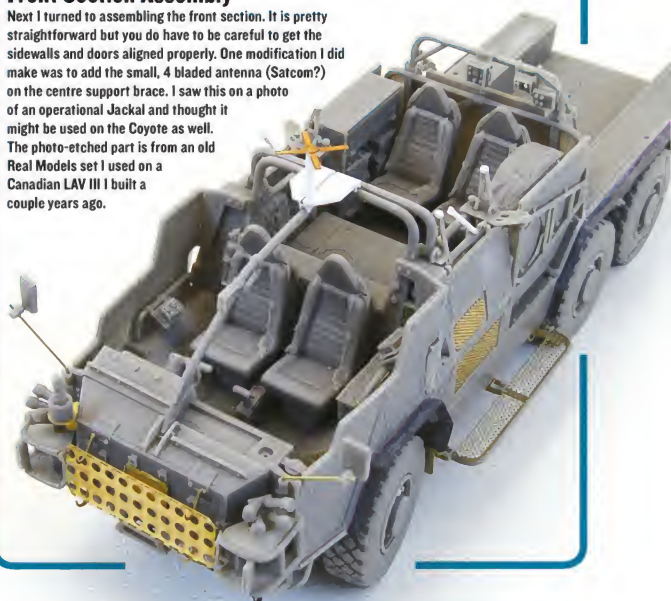
Just behind the weapons mount and in the same 'compartment' are two seats. Installing these is an easy job but I also took the time to fit the rear figure in place. This figure is from a new set just released by Accurate Armour that contains four figures for the Coyote/Jackal. The figure in the photo needed a little hair dryer work to adjust his legs and arm to fit. I also fitted the side steps and armour plates. You have to fit the armour panels to get the figure in place and I found that the design of these parts was very good since they actually can swing on their hinges. The steps turned out to be a little harder.

The instructions indicate mounting the photo-etched brackets to the body pretty early on but when I went to attach the steps they didn't line up with the hinges on the steps. The easy solution was to pop the photo-etch off the body, attach it to the steps and then glue the whole assembly to the body. So if you're building this kit, go that route.



### Front Section Assembly

Next I turned to assembling the front section. It is pretty straightforward but you do have to be careful to get the sidewalls and doors aligned properly. One modification I did make was to add the small, 4 bladed antenna (Satcom?) on the centre support brace. I saw this on a photo of an operational Jackal and thought it might be used on the Coyote as well. The photo-etched part is from an old Real Models set I used on a Canadian LAV III I built a couple years ago.





## Front Figures

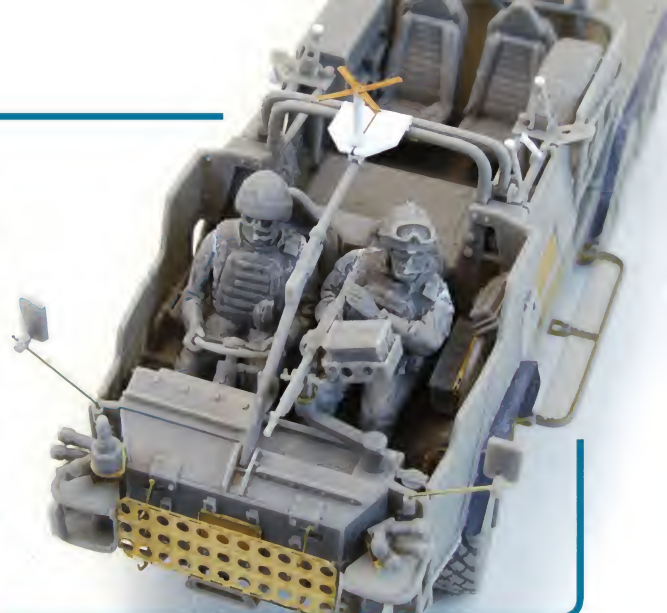
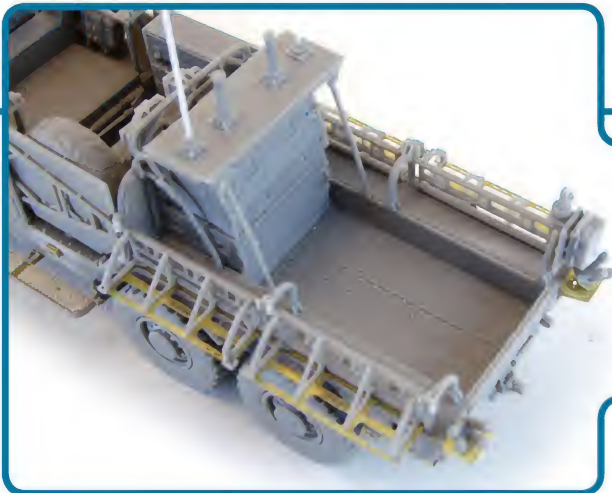
With the front section assembled, I turned to putting together the figures. I've found from past experience that it is better to have the steering wheel fixed to the driver than to the vehicle as it can be super tough to install the figure later if you do it in reverse.

The fit was pretty good for this figure and I only needed a bit of putty to seal up some gaps where his arms fit to his vest.

Then I started on the gunner. Based on my past work on the SAS Land Rover IIO DPV, I knew that this figure was going to be tough to get together. There are a lot of variables such as arm position, gun position front-back, up-down, and left-right.

I made this job a lot easier by using some plastic rod to make pins for the mount of the gun to the swing arm, the swing arm to the dash board, and the gunner's right arm. By doing this, I could have these pieces stay in place and still be movable for positioning. It worked well. But still, the fit of the gunner's arm to the vest wasn't very good and I'll guess that I placed something a little off. But no big deal since a little putty work fixed that.

Once I had these pieces in place and glued (except the swing arm to the dash board), I proceeded to fit the gunner's left arm, again adjusting its position to make sure his hand rested on the gun. Once all the parts had dried, I removed the gunner with the gun, filled the gaps with putty and attached his head. It is a lot easier to paint the gunner and the gun together than try to make this all fit after painting.



## Rear Bed Assembly

The last major assembly step is the rear bed. By far the most difficult step is the antenna platform. It is tough because you have to get it level and centred. The reality of resin is that there is some warping and variation so I had to use a hairdryer to tweak it a bit. In the end, I had to glue it in place to make sure it was sitting correctly and since it's a green part, that's going to make painting a little harder.

Then I attached the side racks. These can be mounted down or up. I like them folded down because they carry fuel and water cans so it'll add even more to the overall look of the model. Finally, I wrapped up the work with the rear smoke dischargers, the tail gate, and the right antenna. The two boxes under the antenna platform I left loose so I can paint them separately.

## Stowage

I really wanted to load up this model with gear. Thankfully, Accurate Armour had just released a great set of Milan missiles in their cases, which are perfect for the rear bed. They also sell a set of water and fuel cans that will work well for the racks. Plus, they now offer a set of hanging packs that I used to attach to the armour plate on the side of the Coyote. I saw this on a photo of a Jackal (the four wheel version) so I assumed it might be realistic to have them hanging off the Coyote too. Plus they look cool.

Finally, I threw some loose tarps and boxes in the bed as well as some water bottle boxes. These all have different colours so they add to the overall look of the vehicle.





## Airbrushing

I thought that painting this model might be a challenge with so much of it assembled, so after I finished the assembly, I let it sit for about a week while I pondered the best approach. I figured that one way or another I was going to have to touch up overspray since masking is simply not feasible with all the small parts. It is always easier to touch up a light colour sprayed over a dark one. Also, I decided that I really wanted to panel fade the tan coloured areas. With that in mind, I came up with a painting order that I felt would be the most efficient. Here's the order I ended up using.

The paints are Testor's Model Master enamels unless noted:

- Flat Black
- US Army Holo Drab Acrylic (tires)
- Green Drab (Milan Missiles and MG ammo cans)
- Olive Drab
- Faded Olive Drab (for the figures)
- Afrika Khakibraun (for the tarps and bed rolls)
- Military Brown (base coat for the tan areas)
- British Gulf Light Sand
- Sand

As you can tell from the picture, there is overspray all over, but I was able to fix that with a brush without too much trouble.



## Details and Decals

I started the process of cleaning up the airbrush overspray by dry brushing the tan areas. I figured that since all the other colours needed touch up anyway, I might as well do the dry brushing first so as to avoid having even more touch up later.

Then I used a brush to paint the colours noted in the last chapter to fix all the overspray. I also dry brushed on each colour and then painted the remaining details. It was a slow process but eventually I got it done.

With the detail painting finished, I added the decals. Accurate Armour has done a superb job of providing all of the tiny placards that are found around the Coyote and they obviously had full access to the real vehicle. While none of them are very big, these small detail decals really add an extra bit of detail that your eye can pick up. Well done. Finally, I gave the model two heavy flat coats to get it ready for weathering.

## Weathering

I didn't want to do too much weathering since these vehicles are relatively new and modern paint is pretty tough. I started by giving the entire model a light wash in thinned Raw Umber oil paint to help blend the colours and also bring out a little detail. Once dry, I airbrushed some thinned Tamiya Deck Tan to simulate dust build up. Then I used MIG Pigments Light European Dust on the wheels, wheel wells, and lower body to simulate more extensive dust build up.

## Figures

I must apologize that I don't have a photo for the painting of the figures. In my zeal to assemble the model for weathering I forgot to photograph the figures when I had painted them. Accurate Armour provides a nice picture of the camouflage pattern on the figures. The scheme is similar to the 'Woodland' pattern used by the U.S. in the 1980s. I added Afrika Dunkelgrau, Italian Dark Brown, and Black to the Faded Olive Drab base colour. I'm not sure that I did a great job with the pattern but it's pretty well masked with all the straps and gear on the figures. Like the vehicle, I gave the figures a light wash of thinned Raw Umber oil paint.

## Finishing Up

All that was now left to do was the base. I love the look of the vehicle so I decided to keep the base simple to show off the Coyote. The rocks are plaster casts using flexible moulds from Woodland Scenics. I painted them using shades of grey for the panel fading and dry brushing. Then I gave them a wash of thinned Raw Umber oil paint. The sand is just that - sand from the beach. I mixed it with a wall repair product called Presto Patch along with a little brown paint and some white glue. Once dry, I used some more Raw Umber wash to highlight the tracks from the wheels.







## CONCLUSION

Building Accurate Armour 1:35 scale Coyote TSV(L) was a complex project but considering the nature of the vehicle, a pretty straightforward effort too.

## Modelspec

Accurate Armour 1:35 scale Coyote TSV(L) Kit No.K178

### Paints Used

Testor's Model Master Enamels British Light Gulf Sand; Sand; Olive Drab

### Accessories Used

Accurate Armour Modern British Water Cans, Set No. A006, UK MOD Jerry Cans 1964 Onwards, Kit No. A113, Milan Missile Bulk Containers, Set No. A126.

### References Used

Photos found on the Internet.

- ☒ Interesting and detailed kit of a current vehicle.
- ☒ Some complex construction.

### Available from

Accurate Armour kits are available directly from their website [www.accurate-armour.com](http://www.accurate-armour.com)

Rating ●●●●●●●●



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## L1500A (Kfz.70)

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The box lid featuring superb artwork by Ron Volstad.

Andy King reviews Dragon's 1:35 scale newly Zimmerited Porsche Jagdtiger

## THE SLOWEST PORSCHE...

**W**eighing in at over 70 tonnes, the Jagdtiger was the heaviest tank to see service during WWII. Mounting the 128mm PaK 44 L/55 gun in a heavily armoured, boxy superstructure the Jagdtiger was a formidable weapon that could defeat Allied armour from distances over 3500 meters. However the huge weight combined with an underpowered engine and weak transmission led to frequent breakdowns, more losses being recorded for this reason rather than actual combat.

150 Jagdtigers were ordered but only around half that number were produced, entering service in September 1944 and equipping just two heavy anti tank battalions; the 512th and 653rd.

Jagdtigers saw action mainly in the Ruhr Valley but poor crew training and morale, fuel shortages and mechanical failure meant that these vehicles never really made any difference to the final battles of WWII.

This latest kit from Dragon depicts an early vehicle with Porsche suspension, eight road wheels each side and 18-tooth drive sprockets. The box contains

an assortment of goodies we've come to expect such as a turned metal barrel, etch bits, metal tow clamps and a high parts count. The huge amount of parts is mainly down to 6 frames of track links with a 100 on each sprue; mind you it still leaves around 300 for the tank alone.

As usual, the parts are very well moulded with minor mould seams and virtually no flash. The level of detail on the exterior is beautifully rendered even down to the weld seams on the lower hull.

The track links are not the easy 'Magic Tracks' included in other Dragon kits so you'll have to cut them off the sprues. There are also two ejector-pin marks on each link but as they are raised so a sharp blade will take care of those.

Photo-etched parts cover the engine grills, various tool clamps and some very small tie down hooks that should try your patience when fitting to the hull.

The 'Patent Registered Dragon Zimmerit' moulded into the styrene looks really good.

The depth is not over done unlike earlier attempts at replicating the stuff, the pattern not too uniform and the good news is that the areas around the exhausts have been left blank. This means you don't have to scrape back the zimm to get the exhaust stacks to fit properly. The bad news is you will still have to do it for the tools fitted to the side of the hull as these were not bolted on top of zimmerit. Also you will have to work out where the tools go as there are no locating marks on the styrene either.

Interior detail is limited to a floor, gun cradle, breech assembly and not much else. If you want those big rear hatches open the lack of detail will be very apparent. Also you may need to blank off underneath the engine grills to prevent a see through effect.

While I am nitpicking, the supplied metal barrel does not feature any rifling either.

The instructions seem to be pretty straightforward as you don't have a multitude of optional parts to contend with but as always I would recommend reading through them before assembly.

Colour schemes are limited to just two, both from Panzer Jaeger Abteilung 653. One vehicle is plain dark yellow overall and the other in three tone camouflage. Markings consist of just crosses and chassis numbers.

In summary, this looks to be a really nice kit and the only problems I can foresee would be cleaning up lots of track links without falling asleep and the placement of tools on the hull sides. The lack of interior detail is only a problem if you want the hatches open.

With every new release, Dragon improves the standard of their moulded on zimmerit. I've not been a huge fan, but I have to say this time around it is quite impressive and for modellers who don't feel confident doing their own zimmerit it will be ideal. ■

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited  
[www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)



This sprue has all the interior parts on it.



The rear hatches capture the chunky look of the real things very well.



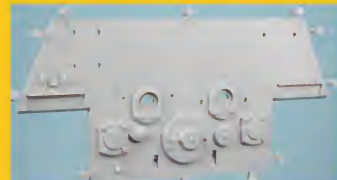
The gun mantlet features a good cast texture.



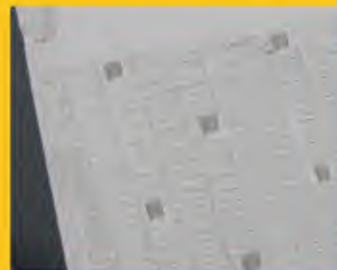
The track links and those ejector-pin marks. Cleaning them up should keep you quiet for a few hours.



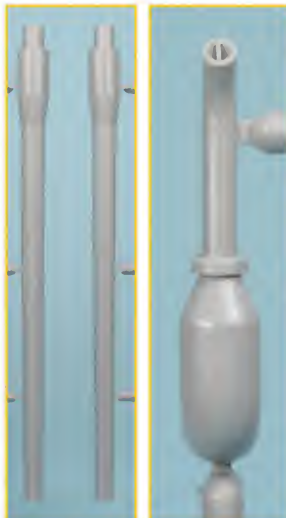
The On-Vehicle tools are good although photo-etched parts are supplied in the kit for the tool clamps.



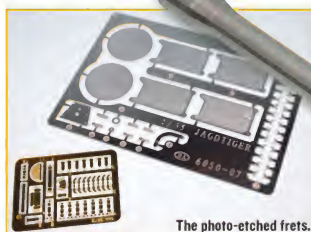
The rear hull plate. Areas for the exhausts are left zimmerit free.



The Zimmerit is nicely done but you will have to work out where the tools go and scrape back the zimm for the attachment points.



The kit's styrene barrel. One of the exhaust pipes.



The photo-etched frets.

The metal barrel as supplied in the kit. This is much better than the styrene one but it lacks rifling.



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# COLLECTING MILITARIA

Alan Price introduces us to a pursuit that has much in common with modelling and an interest in history – collecting militaria.

**M**ost modellers have a keen interest in history. After all, most of the subjects that we build are historic in nature. In order to get that realism in the subjects we model, we all research our subjects in depth, looking for the ultimate in accuracy and then translate this into a representation in plastic to bring that history to life.

A natural extension of this interest in history and the research into it is to branch out into collecting militaria. My own (small) militaria collection started out with a single item, an Iron Cross, which I bought because I'd read so much about it while researching a project. I can remember very well the thrill of holding a real Iron Cross in my hand for the first time. Here was a piece of real history, a connection with the past.

Militaria covers a vast range of items, medals, arms and ammunition, uniforms, documents and so on. In this article, we will look at some of the major areas of interest but inevitably, this can only ever be a brief introduction to what is a huge subject.

Where to start? I think the first

consideration has to be cost and here we have to be realistic. A lot of Militaria is priced out of the range of the average collector. Prices can be frightening. For example, expect to pay around £500 if you want a German WWII officers cap; double that if it is an SS example. It can also be a very dangerous field. Precautions need to be taken when collecting deactivated weapons and munitions. Edged weapons can by their very nature be dangerous if mishandled. However, there is much that is still accessible to the collector on a modest budget and certainly enough to bring your model collection to life when displayed alongside it.

The next consideration has to be where to obtain militaria. As with modelling, the Internet has caused an explosion of interest over the past few years. Many traders deal solely on the Internet where it is possible to trade all over the world, 24 x 7, from the comfort of your own home or office. I have a couple of sources that I use for most of my purchases. One of those is John Carlin who runs JC Militaria Ltd. John's huge stock provided

most of the items photographed for this article and he has provided a lot of the technical input to the article to supplement my limited knowledge of the field. JC Militaria is largely Internet based, trades internationally and has business premises which can be visited by appointment.

## MEDAL COLLECTING

Probably the most accessible area for collectors is medals. Prices here can range from a few pounds, to many thousands. There are self proclaimed specialists trading on the internet however care must be taken as there are a lot of copies about being passed off as genuine. Make sure you select a reputable dealer. Many dealers won't trade items they suspect of being fake but equally there are unscrupulous traders who will.

As with modelling, many collectors work to a theme and yes, just like many modellers, German WWII items are very popular with militaria collectors! That does mean you can expect to pay a small premium. One of the top items for the German medal collector has to be the Iron Cross.

Some collectors specialise in this one medal alone as there are a number of variations and many makers. The Iron Cross comes in two forms, first and second class. The second class version was awarded for an act of bravery in the face of the enemy. First class medals were awarded for a further 3 to 4 acts of bravery and hence are somewhat more scarce (and therefore higher priced). The second class medal is readily available and if you shop around you can find a nice clean example for around the £75 mark. Other popular medals are the War Merit Cross, equivalent to the Iron Cross but for bravery not in the face of the enemy, the Eastern Front medal, awarded to combatants in the Russian offensive, the West Wall Medal, given to soldiers and workers on the western defences and the War Wound Medals, awarded for battle injuries. All of these medals are readily available but don't just buy the first one you see. Shop around and look out for the best one you can find.

Condition is vitally important and medals come in all sorts of condition. Many Allied medals



been well kept and polished. Unfortunately this can be detrimental to the medal and its value, as polishing can remove the finish and the detail from the medal. The polish residue can also clog details and itself lead to corrosion.

Many German medals have been poorly stored. Often they come to sale from house clearances, found in an attic or basement. The quality of these medals varied over the duration of the war, quality being highest for earlier medals, poorest for late ones. As metals became scarce, cheaper materials were substituted. Medals such as the Eastern Front Medal vary greatly in quality, later ones often showing signs of corrosion, a bubbling of the surface and a white deposit where the zinc has been affected by damp conditions. War Merit Crosses can appear grey or silver where the bronzed wash finish has been lost exposing the base metal.

Iron Crosses are generally of good quality but the silver frames can fail so look out for this. Also the iron centre is prone to corrosion and damage to the black paint will allow rust to set in. The frame is 'German silver', an alloy which has the appearance of silver. It tones down to black over the years like oxidised silver. If the frame is fairly dark it can be polished back to a bright silver finish quite easily with a silver polish cloth. If you get a particularly nice cross with the frosting still on the inner part of the silver I would recommend not polishing it as you will remove the frosting. Many collectors prefer to keep the cross in its original condition.

## INERT ORDNANCE

Inert ordnance is a similarly accessible field. However before considering collecting inert ordnance, please ensure you are dealing with a reputable trader who established the ordnance is truly inert before trading. For the ordnance to be inert, it must have all powder/explosive removed and the primers must be treated to remove the possibility of explosion. The collecting code usually used is:

1. All ammunition and ordnance should be treated as being live and dangerous until 100% certain they are inert and F.F.E. (Free from explosives)
2. Never mix inert collectors ammunition or ordnance with live rounds.
3. Never load collectors cartridges into a weapon or try to fire a primer, it is potentially dangerous and detracts from the value.
4. A striker mark on a primer does not automatically mean the cartridge is not live.

Deactivated ordnance does not require special storage or certificates in the UK but it may elsewhere in the world. You must check local regulations to ensure you comply with the law.

Ammunition from famous weapons is readily available and I have MG151/20 (e.g. Bf 109/Fw 190) and MK108 (e.g. Me 262/Fw 190) rounds as well as Allied .303 and .50 inch rounds. I have had the opportunity to examine rounds from 88 mm Flak 36, 88mm Tiger Ausf. B rounds (which are truly huge!), PaK 36, T-34/85, Sherman 75mm, all sorts of machine gun and cannon rounds, incendiary bombs, grenades, mortar rounds and even a German SC250 bomb in its packing crate! Now while an MK108 round is a reasonable £50 or so, if you fancy a Tiger Ausf. B 88mm round to stand next to your latest Tiger B build, be prepared to part with an eye watering £1000...

## DEACTIVATED WEAPONS

Moving on from munitions takes us to deactivated weapons. Please check the laws that apply in your country before purchasing deactivated weapons. Here in the UK a deactivated weapon must have been deactivated to the British standard, then examined at a Proof House where it would be issued with a certificate of deactivation.

Once again, the range is daunting - everything from small handguns to MG 34s and Vickers machine guns are out there. Some deactivated weapons are quite large. Not everyone has room for something as big as an MG 34 but a handgun is by its nature, is quite compact. However, price does not reflect size. Some handguns can be over the £2000 mark while a large machine gun like the MG 34 can be less than £1000. Long guns can be accessible with rifles such as a Lee Enfield in the £300 to £400 range.

These old weapons often have battle scars and one can only wonder at the stories they could tell. I recently saw an MG 34 made in 1939 that had repair stamps showing it had seen service throughout the war. Who knows where it had been but it could well have been through the fall of France, the North African campaign, the Russian front and maybe even the fall of Berlin. An MG 34 is a big gun and could form the centrepiece of a very impressive collection.

Rifles having a lot of wood in their construction often show signs of use. Don't be tempted to sand down the woodwork and re-varnish damaged woodwork as this will affect the value of the rifle. Original condition is always best.

Some guns can be very expensive, Thomson sub machine guns, while superbly built with ►



Two well know handguns, a Webley .38 Mk IV Service Revolver as used by British forces and a Walther P38 semi automatic 9mm parabeulum manufactured by Metallwarenfabrik Spreewerk, Berlin-Spandau. Courtesy JC Militaria Ltd.



A pair of bayonets. The upper black one is a 1938 Model 1884/98 for the K98 rifle. It is marked PZRB (Panzer Regiment 8) on the hilt and stamped with a serial number on the ricasso. The blade is unsharpened and in almost new condition (Authors collection). The other bayonet is the British No. 5 Mk I for the Jungle Carbine. Courtesy JC Militaria Ltd.



A pair of sectioned Soviet era hand grenades. The 'pineapple' style is a defensive grenade, designed to generate shrapnel when tossed at the enemy. The other is offensive, lighter weight so can be thrown further. It has a small blast radius to avoid damage to the attacking force. Courtesy JC Militaria Ltd.







Two famous medals. To the left is an Iron Cross Second Class. This one is in nice condition with excellent paintwork and no rust. The silverwork is nice and bright with little tarnish. The ribbon is quite faded. At the right is the Russian Front medal, this one has lost its silvered edge but the metal is not corroded and the ribbon is in good condition. *Author's collection.*



Two more well-known medals. On the left, the war Merit Medal with Swords. This one is in lovely condition with the bronze wash on the tombak metal intact. It has a piece of unused ribbon with it. On the right is the similarly made West Wall Medal, again in lovely condition but the ribbon is a bit tired. *Author's collection.*

◀ beautiful rosewood furniture, command prices around £1500. Expect to pay similar for a German MP 40. Lugers, especially long barrel versions, can be significantly more than this.

### EDGE WEAPONS

Edge weapons is a generic term which covers swords, bayonets and daggers. There are quite a variety of these available and while swords can be rather large and require similar display space to a rifle, bayonets and daggers can be shown off quite easily. Edge weapons are often very sharp - no surprise there - so should be handled with care. Remember these are weapons and were specifically designed to kill and injure soldiers in combat and that is exactly what they will do to you if mishandled. Here in the UK there are no laws against owning such weapons if you are over 18 years old, but elsewhere please check your local laws.

There is a large range of bayonets and these can be found in quite good condition. Leather frogs can suffer and it pays to shop around to find a good example if the bayonet you are interested in has one. I have a German 1894/98 bayonet for the K98 rifle in unused condition, the blade has not been sharpened and this has a almost 'as new' leather frog. Fabric frogs tend to fair better over the years so most British bayonets for the Jungle Carbine, for example, come with a decent frog. Prices here are quite reasonable, £100 to £200 for good quality bayonets so this is a fairly accessible area.

Swords can be somewhat expensive. Genuine Japanese military pieces can command several hundred pounds and more. Daggers were often family pieces for ceremonial use and can be very finely made and thus command surprisingly high prices. On a personal level, swords and daggers have less interest as their use was limited, whilst bayonets as a service issue item to go with a gun,

are much more interesting. Having my bayonet for the K98 rifle it would be nice to have the K98 rifle to go with it!

### UNIFORMS & INSIGNIA

Uniforms cover everything from buttons and badges right up to a full uniform kit. Insignia - both cloth and metallic - are readily available and are often intricate and highly detailed items, adding to their appeal. Items such as Luftwaffe pilots badges can command high prices for nice examples. These service badges are often highly detailed and plated or painted in different colours. Some are not too heavy on the pocket, the Luftwaffe Ground Forces badges, Minesweeper and surprisingly, the Panzer badges are all to be found at reasonable cost. There are plenty of German metal tunic and cap eagles to be found, often in very nice condition.

Cloth items are by their nature, more difficult to collect. Uniforms are easily damaged by moth and wear so command a correspondingly high price. This



A woven eagle for the Coastal Defence Forces. This has been cut from a roll but not cut out to be applied to a uniform. *Author's collection.*

area is sadly beyond the pockets of most collectors. However, cloth badges can often be found in excellent condition for a good price. Lots are on the market which have come from rolls which were to be cut up into individual badges to be sewn on to a uniform. As a result these are often in mint or near mint condition. Flags can also be obtained, everything from small

pennants which flew on cars up to political banners and Kriegsmarine Battleship flags though quite how you display a 5 metre x 3 metre Kriegsmarine flag is a difficult question!

Naturally cloth items need to be stored correctly and if anyone is considering investing in this sort of Militaria then specialist storage advice should be sought.



Just a few guns at JC Militaria offices. Spot the MP43 and Thompson Sub Machine Gun. *Courtesy JC Militaria Ltd.*



Hiding around a corner at JC Militaria's office is this mannequin dressed in full Japanese Army uniform - quite scary if you don't know it's there as you round the corner! *Courtesy JC Militaria Ltd.*





Two big guns – MG34 and MG42, its surprising just how big and heavy these are when you get to see the real thing. Courtesy JC Militaria Ltd.

#### PHOTOGRAPHS AND DOCUMENTATION

To us modellers, this is a particularly interesting area. Quite frequently collections of photographs appear for sale. Often these have never been seen before outside the family of the photographer so can provide a unique historical record. Certainly these will contain missing information useful to modellers. Collections are difficult to price and quality can be variable but nonetheless of great interest. Documents such as Soldiers' pass books, pilots' logs etc can be found as well. German Memorial Cards are also available and these can often give a very personal and moving view of a soldier's life and death.

If you do decide to collect Militaria, and I hope you will, remember these are historical artefacts and will be of interest to future generations so must be preserved as best as possible. The National Trust here in the UK publish books on keeping historical artefacts and they provide sound advice on their care, storage and display. If you are in doubt over care of an artefact please consult a knowledgeable source to ensure you don't damage your items.

#### HAPPY COLLECTING!

As you can appreciate from this very brief introduction to collecting militaria, it is a huge field and in my opinion can really enhance modelling. Displaying both models and militaria together can make for a spectacular display. If collecting militaria sounds like it is something which appeals to you then I hope you enjoy this field but please remember the dangers pointed out in the article and enjoy the hobby safely. ■

Many thanks to John Carlin for his invaluable input into this article.  
[www.jcmilitaria.com](http://www.jcmilitaria.com)

All photos shot by the Author using a Nikon D2x with 17-55 f2.8 AFS Nikkor and a 60mm f2.8 Micro Nikkor lenses.

German cannon shells. On the left is an MG151/20 round. This one is marked 'exw' which identifies it as manufactured by Metallwerke Holselshen. This is a Minengeschoss – Mine shell. It has a drawn steel case designed to generate shrapnel when detonated by the centrifugal fuse in the nose. To the right is a huge MK108 30mm round as used in the Me 262. It is similar in construction to the MG151/20 round.

Author's collection.

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Some really big ammunition, to the right a 17 pounder round from a British Comet tank. To the left of this is an 88mm Flak37/38 shell and cartridge. For scale in front is a 1/2 inch Browning round and a .303 round. Courtesy JC Militaria Ltd

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# HEAVY HUNTER

## THE LAST OF THE BREED

**Pawel Rzymiski** modifies Dragon's 1:35 scale Henschel Jagdtiger to the late version, and tests out some new weathering techniques.

**T**he Sd.Kfz. 186 Jagdtiger (Hunting Tiger) was the heaviest German operational armoured vehicle of World War II. Its development started in early 1943 and it was based on the design of the King Tiger. The main differences were a longer hull, fixed turret and more powerful gun to fulfil its role of supporting infantry and armoured vehicles at long ranges. It was armed with the 128mm Pak 44 L/55 gun and one MG34 machine gun for anti-infantry defence, with a second

added later for AA defence. Production was planned to start in December of 1943 but finally began on a small scale in July of 1944. By the end of the war as few as 88 vehicles had made it into service. For this project I picked Dragon's 1:35 scale Henschel Jagdtiger kit no. 6285 from my stash. This kit has been on the market for quite a long time but it still offers excellent value for money. Beside being a very accurate model, you get some basic white metal parts, a metal barrel, clear parts for visors, magic tracks, a big sheet of decals,

a metal towing cable and metal shackles etc. This makes up quite a nice package that you don't see in new DML releases any more. Just one more thing. It is not stated anywhere in the instructions but the kit contains the parts needed for a command vehicle. You'll still need to find an aftermarket star antenna and its mast but most importantly you do have the parts for the antenna base which as far as I know is not available from any accessories manufacturer.

I wanted to use this build as

a test bed to try out some new techniques and products. This is the main reason why I chose a plain colour instead of the supposed three-tone factory-applied camouflage.

### BUILDING

I started the build with the lower hull, suspension and tracks. After removing all of the road wheels from the sprues and cleaning them up, the suspension arms were installed. The road wheels, idler and sprockets were dry fitted in order to mount the magic tracks ►





Dragon's 1:35 scale Jagdtiger has been around for a while, but it is still an excellent kit.



A number of modifications were made to the basic kit to represent the late version. The most obvious of these are the additional track hangers on the side hull and casemate.

**“This kit has been on the market for quite a long time but it still offers excellent value for money....”**



The base for the AA MG 42 machine gun may be seen on the left side of the engine hatch. This is another feature of some late Jagdtigers.



The jack, its holder and wooden block haven't been installed on the rear hull, as these were not present on late Jagdtigers.



Dragon's very nice individual link "Magic Tracks" are supplied with this kit.



A cable for the Bosch light was added to the front of the hull.





The whole model was primed with Testors acrylic Model Master AR00102 Panzer Schokoladenbraun.



A mix of Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow and XF-57 Buff diluted with a 70% alcohol was sprayed over the primer coat.



Mig Productions enamel washes: Dark (P220) and Brown (P221) were used exclusively for the filter and washing phases.



The whole vehicle first received a thin filter of the Brown Wash.



A single application does not guarantee the right intensity of the colour and so the wash was applied in few consecutive passes.



Painting of the tracks and lower parts of the hull started with airbrushing of a coat of Vallejo Panzer Aces Track Primer.



This shade was also extended to the lower superstructure and track guards to tie these areas in with the lower hull and tracks.

◀ onto them. With this part of the build finished I was able to switch to model a late production vehicle the jack, its holder and wooden block haven't been installed. Those features were deleted on Jagdtigers around the same time as the King Tiger. Being from the same family, the Jagdtiger followed some, but not all, of the production improvements introduced on King Tigers.

The last part of the build was the upper hull, a massive structure in the case of the Jagdtiger.

Beside adding a few minor details like the cable for the Bosch light, the shovel fitting and photo etched clamps for pioneer tools, the build was kept out of the box. On the engine deck, the mast for the MG 42 machine gun is an interesting option. I decided to fix it on the left side of the engine hatch as seen for example on the well photographed "X7" vehicle. In theory, the MG 42 on the rear deck was intended to provide a direct anti-aircraft defence to the vehicle, but I suspect that the genius who had this brilliant idea probably never tried it out himself!

Later on during the painting stage I found a picture of an

abandoned Jagdtiger with anti-aircraft/shrapnel plates over the air intakes on the engine deck. I decided to add them as it was something to add an interesting look to my build.

On the sides of the hull, the most difficult task was gluing the tiny white metal hangers all along the hull and the casemate. In order to reproduce a late production vehicle, six pairs of track hangers were added to each side of the tank destroyer. The additional hangers can be found in the box as it contains sprues for the King Tiger. They are not identical to those designed for the kit (which fit special recesses in the hull) but with the help of a file they are easily adapted.

The last of the visible late features are the double handles on the driver and radio operator/machine-gunner hatches.

To show off the details of the tracks on the finished model all but two of the side mudguards and one rear mudguard were left on.

Some minor accessories were to be added at the very end of the project.

## PAINING

Before painting, the model was carefully washed with tap water



The last stage was a thin layer of Dark Wash, which was applied all over and then wiped off. For wiping I used a large flat brush dampened in White Spirit.





Further weathering of the upper hull continued with AK Interactive enamel products (AK 015 Dust Effects and AK 017 Earth Effects).

and soap in order to remove any dirt or grease accumulated during the build phase. Painting started by applying Mr Surfacer 500 with an old stiff brush. The aim was to improve the adhesion of the paint to come, as well as to create some more texture.

The whole model was then primed with Testor's Model Master ARO0102 Panzer Schokoladenbraun (acrylic). The camouflage paint on this model was going to be limited to the Dunkelgelb base coat. It may not be historically accurate but I wanted to try an all dark yellow model. Additionally, the big vertical surfaces of the upper hull were going to give some great opportunities for washes, streaks, rain marks etc.

First the dark brown base primer was sprayed with a few consecutive layers of Future using an airbrush. The next day, after the Future coat had completely dried, another coat, the cheapest hairspray that I was able to find at the supermarket was applied, again using the same 0.3mm airbrush. Some modellers spray the hair spray directly from the can but I find using an airbrush gives a lot more control and lets you to apply thinner coats. Around half an hour later I sprayed a mix of Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow and XF-57 Buff diluted with a 70% alcohol bought in a local drugstore. At the same time the gun barrel was painted with a grey paint, Tamiya XF-53 Neutral Grey, simulating the typical German grey barrel primer. I let the paint dry for some thirty minutes and then started scraping off the paint. For this I used an old, stiff brush as well as some warm water to soften the paint. This step replaced the more traditional method of chipping.



"Mud time" was next, using a mix of plaster, pigments, acrylic resin, fine sand and water applied to the tracks and running gear.



Rain marks were painted on the sides and front of the model.

## WEATHERING

A few days after finishing the dark yellow phase, I started applying filters and washes. Here I exclusively used two ready to use, Mig Productions enamel washes: Dark (P220) and Brown (P221). Due to the fact that all paints used before were not enamel based it was possible to use the Mig washes directly on the Jagdtiger without any varnish protection. At the beginning the whole vehicle received a thin filter of the Brown Wash. In order to not to apply the thick, brown wash I didn't shake the bottle but just dampened the brush in the liquid which contained very few pigments. The model was put aside for few days to let the enamel based product dry properly. It is important to remember that oil/enamel based products or your

own mixes need far more time to dry than acrylics.

With the brown filter done the next step to follow was the pin-washes (including all the running gear). This was again achieved using the Mig Productions ready to use Brown Wash. A single application does not guarantee the right intensity of the colour and so the wash was applied in few consecutive passes. Once satisfied with the result I left the model to dry.

To preserve the work from being damaged during further weathering process a thin layer of Model Master Flat was sprayed with the airbrush.

The last stage was a thin layer of Dark Wash which was applied all over and then wiped off. For wiping I used a large flat brush

dampened in White Spirit. Before being used on the model the brush was carefully dried with the help of a paper towel (it is very important to use an almost dry brush as any excess of White Spirit would take the wash completely off). This long process created some nice dark vertical streaks on the hull.

The previously applied Model Master Flat when diluted is not 100% flat, so in order to achieve a really mat surface, a layer of enamel based Model Master Dullcote (with few drops of Clear) was airbrushed over the model.

Painting of the tracks and lower parts of the hull started with airbrushing of a coat of Vallejo Panzer Aces Track Primer, which is a brown/earth shade, mixed with Vallejo Color German Camo Black Brown. ▶



The gun barrel was painted with a grey paint, Tamiya XF-53 Neutral Grey, simulating the German grey barrel primer.

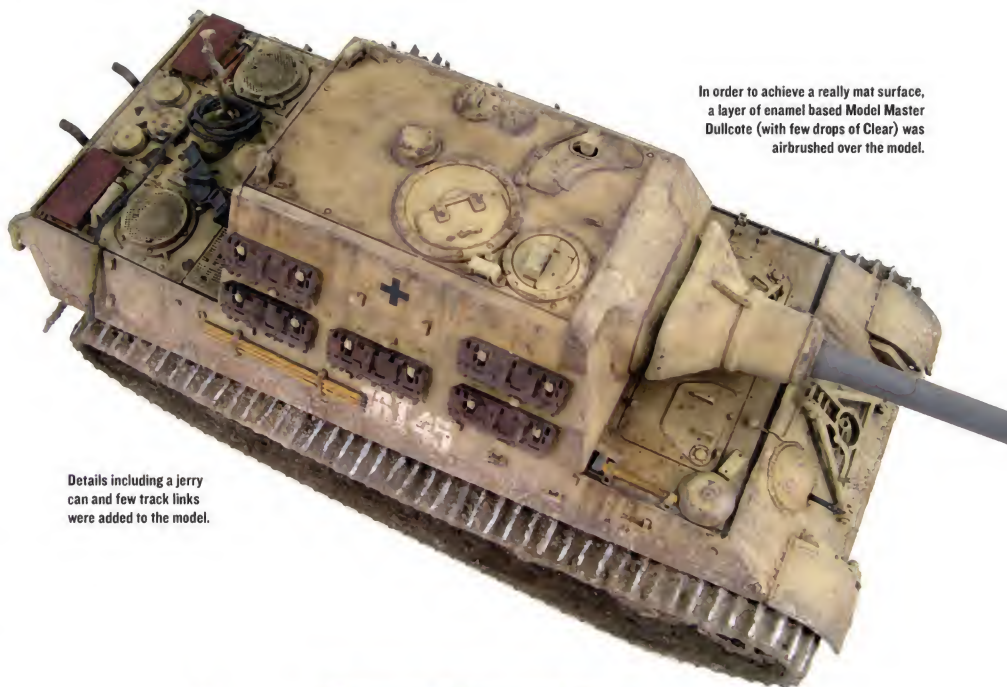


◀ Now it was "mud time". A thick mix of plaster, pigments, acrylic resin, fine sand and water was applied to the tracks and wheels. When the mud dried some excess was taken off with white spirit. The parts of tracks in contact with the ground were painted with a Humbrol aluminium colour. The weathering of the upper hull continued with AK Interactive enamel products (AK 015 Dust Effects and AK 017 Earth Effects).

Rain marks were painted on the sides and front of the model. Splashes of mud were applied using the same AK Interactive products thickened with plaster. This mix was applied to the vehicle using an old brush and airbrush (using short bursts of high pressured air), causing the muddy paste to blow off the brush and settle on the Jagdtiger in a random way creating the desired effect.

The final step of the weathering was the creation of wet looking streaks. Once again, some ready-to-use products came in handy. The Mig productions Wet Effects (P409) and AK Interactive's Earth Effects were mixed with a small quantity of white spirit to make the mix less dense. Using a thin brush the streaks were painted on the hull in few places. When they dried a small correction with white spirit was used to achieve the final look.

With the weathering finished details like a jerry can and few track links were added to the model. One double link was added behind the exhaust pipes on the rear as seen on many Tiger II & Jagdtiger wartime photos (the purpose of this is not clear even today). Finally a towing cable and a jack were put loosely on the engine deck to add some more interest. ■



Details including a jerry can and few track links were added to the model.

In order to achieve a really mat surface, a layer of enamel based Model Master Dullcote (with few drops of Clear) was airbrushed over the model.



Most of the trackguards were left off to show off the details of the tracks.

This was an interesting project to test out some different painting and weathering techniques.

## Modelspec

Dragon 1:35 scale Henschel Jagdtiger Kit No. 6285

### Paints & Weathering Products

- Testor's Model Master acrylic AR00102 Panzer Schokoladenbraun
- Testor's Model Master Flat acrylic
- Testor's Model Master Dullcote
- Tamiya acrylic paints - XF-60 Dark Yellow; XF-57 Buff; XF-53 Neutral Grey
- Mig Productions enamel washes: Dark (P220) and Brown (P221)
- AK Interactive enamel products (AK 015 Dust Effects and AK 017 Earth Effects).
- Humbrol enamel - Aluminium
- Mig Productions Wet Effects (P409)

✓ Accurate; good fit; includes "Magic Tracks"; plenty of options in the box.

✗ Some fiddly construction.

### Available from

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)

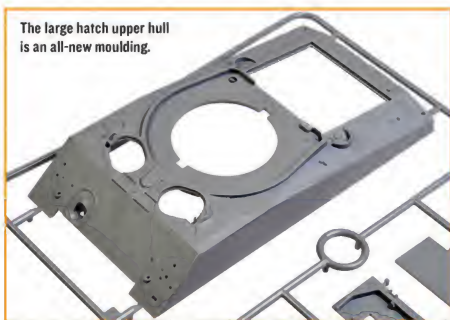
Rating ●●●●●●○○



Anti-aircraft/shrapnel plates were installed over the air intakes on the engine deck.



The large hatch upper hull is an all-new moulding.



# ONE-OH-FIVE ASSAULT

Al Bowie takes a look at Dragon's latest addition to their 1:35 Sherman family - the 105mm assault howitzer tank.

**D**ragon continues to plug the gaps in their 1:35 scale plastic Sherman family by giving modellers an excellent M4 (105) Howitzer Tank which, in this reviewer's opinion, is one of their best Sherman kits yet.

The M4 105 Assault was the last production variant of the radial engine M4 and the first to use the improved 47 degree single piece glacis hull with the large hatches. Over 1,640 were manufactured between February 1944 and March 1945 with both VVSS and HVSS suspensions. They were used by US, UK, Canadian, New Zealand, Polish and French forces in Europe and by the US Army in the Pacific. The 105mm armed Sherman was to provide armoured artillery support to the armoured formations and was typically employed in HQ formations as a support vehicle capable of direct and indirect fire.

The kit is based on earlier Dragon Shermans, comprising a total of more than 580 parts, but unlike their M4 Composite this one has the correct lower hull. The only new part is sprue G, which has the new large hatch hull and some specific M4 105 parts such as the AA MG mount base. The rest of the parts are from their earlier M4A3 105 HVSS kit and I am pleased to see that they have rectified the glaring problem with that kit's undersized mantlet.

This release, like other Dragon VVSS Shermans, contains both

the mid production bogies with the horizontal return roller support arm with spacers and the late production angled return roller arms. The later ones are the correct option for this kit along with the pressed steel wheels from Sprue V. The instructions give you the option, but I have never seen the mid production wheels on an M4 105. Other options in the kit are the Commander's cupolas with a split hatch and all round vision cupola included. Check your references as to which type you require. The tracks are the now familiar DS one piece run, in this case representing T48 Rubber Chevron type with extended end connectors fitted. I am a big fan of the DS tracks but I frequently have to shorten them by two links. Thankfully this is easy due to the glueable nature of the DS track. I suggest drilling and pinning it for greater strength. In previous releases, Dragon has offered two track sets where extended end connectors are an option. They have sadly chosen to only include the EEC option here which is baffling considering that two marking options are Normandy period vehicles which did not have EECs.

Dragon has modified their earlier adjustable rear idler mounts which is disappointing as it could previously be used to ensure a snug tight run of track required on the Sherman.

An excellent .50 cal M2 AA

MG is included and this has the correct three footed mount to allow it to be installed over the rear ventilator in the turret roof. The barrel is a one-piece plastic affair and quite well done. Markings are provided for three US Army vehicles with options for:

- 8 TB 4 Armd Div in a Mud Disruptive Scheme Normandy 44 (Operation COBRA)
- 31 Armd Regt Normandy 1944
- HQ Company 32 Armd Regt Belgium 1945 in Whitewash.

Additionally, Dragon provides their now familiar US Stencil sheet that has multiple alpha numeric characters, triangles and U.S.A markings to allow you to depict another vehicle. I confess that I am disappointed that Dragon did not offer a British, Polish or French option as well, as these are all well documented in current publications.

Regardless of my nitpicks, I feel this is one of Dragon's best Sherman kits of a very important Allied subject. Dragon's researchers have really done a great job on this one. The detail is outstanding and it will build into a great looking accurate M4 105 Assault Gun.

I thoroughly recommend this kit and have already bought multiple examples. ■

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited  
[www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)



The one-piece cast nose.



The lower hull sides, floor and sponsons are moulded in one piece.



The turret has been seen before, but it is an excellent piece of moulding with convincing cast texture.



A problem with the earlier HVSS 105's undersized mantlet has been corrected for this release.



Rear hull parts.



The upper rear deck sprue is also from an earlier release.



Dragon offers the choice of horizontal or upswept return roller mounts; and lace or pressed road wheels.



Clear and multimedia parts are safely packaged separately.



Full-length flexible DS tracks with Duckbill extensions are supplied with this kit.





An M4 (75mm) Sherman tank of the Pretoria Regiment called "OAK", photographed during exercise Tussel in 1943/44. Private Moore, one of the crew members, may be seen in the photo. (Photo: A. 'Buz' Moore via Dave George)

## A TANK CALLED "OAK"

William Marshall continues his occasional series with the history of the Sherman tank in South African service, and specific details of a tank called OAK.

**T**he M4 Sherman was introduced to the South African forces in North Africa during 1943. The only South African unit that was available at that time was the newly established 6 SA Armoured Division. This Division was forming up at Helwan in Egypt, training to be deployed to Italy as an armoured division based on the British model.

Initially, the 6th SA Armoured Division was equipped with old desert war surplus tanks for use in their training. These were later replaced with the newly arrived M4 Sherman.

The M4 Sherman and South African forces officially first met in the Western Desert of North

African during 1943. The 1st SA Division was disbanded at the end of the campaign and 2 SA Motorised Division was lost at Tobruk. Many surviving members of these divisions then joined the newly forming 6 SA Armoured Division that was forming in Egypt after the conclusion of the North African campaign.

The members of the SA forces were not entirely unfamiliar with armoured warfare, as some tanks and armoured cars were used during the campaign in East Africa. The first and second divisions all being motorised, it was decided to create a new division for armoured conflict. The 6th SA Armoured Division thus came into being and drew many personnel from

the other two divisions. However, this was still not enough and a British Brigade had to be added to complete the Division.

Initially the Division started out with obsolete equipment taken over from the British forces in Egypt for training purposes. These were mostly Crusader tanks, Priests, Stuarts and a couple of Grant command tanks. These tanks were sufficient for their intended training purpose but were gradually exchanged for new tanks during the training phase in the desert.

The obsolete equipment was replaced during 1943 as new Lend-Lease tanks started to arrive in the Middle East. The 6th SA Armoured Division was then equipped with new M4 (75mm) Sherman tanks.

### TYPES USED

The South African force initially received only the following types of Sherman tanks:

- The M4 armed with a 75mm gun.
- The M4 armed with a 105mm gun.
- The 105mm howitzer armed Priest.
- The M10 tank destroyer armed with the 3" gun.

### PRETORIA REGIMENT'S LOGO

The Pretoria Regiment (Princess Alice's Own Pretoria Regiment) was formed on 1 July 1913 as an Infantry Regiment. This Regiment came into being as a direct result of the amalgamation of the Pretoria companies of the Central South African Railway Volunteers, Transvaal Scottish, Transvaal Cycle



and Motor Corps and the remnants of the Northern Mounted Rifles.

#### WORLD WAR ONE

The Pretoria Regiment was mobilised in August 1914 for the German South West Campaign. It served firstly with the Central Force and then later with the Northern Force. Thereafter, members of the Regiment served with various other units in a number of different locations on overseas fronts.

In June 1927 the Regiment was affiliated with the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. The Colonel-in-Chief, Her Royal Highness, Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone was appointed

in 1930. The Regiment's title was then changed to Prince Alice's Own Pretoria Regiment. In 1936 the Regiment was organised into a two-Battalion unit.

#### WORLD WAR TWO

The Pretoria Regiment was mobilised on the 23rd July 1940 for service in WWII. In 1942, it served with the SA Infantry in the Madagascar campaign. In 1943, the Regiment came under command of the 11th Armoured Brigade of the 6th SA Armoured Division. It served with distinction throughout the campaign as a component of the 24 Guards Brigade. ►



The M4 (75mm) Sherman "OAK" clearly showing its WD number of T212210.  
(Photo: A. 'Buz' Moore via Dave George)



Trooper A.E. "Buz" Moore in front of his tank in North Africa - 1943/44.  
(Photo: A. 'Buz' Moore via Dave George)

# PRETORIA REGIMENT

# PRINCE ALICE'S OWN







# CAMO CORNER - A tank called "OAK"

## POST WAR

In 1954 the Pretoria Regiment was reduced to one Battalion. On the 1 July 1963, the Regiment was conferred with the Freedom of the City of Pretoria. It is still currently active as a Citizen Force Reserve armoured unit.

## A TANK CALLED "OAK"

This tank was a M4 (75mm) Sherman issued to the Pretoria Regiment and took part in the 1943/4 Divisional exercise called "Tusset". For the purpose of this exercise all tanks were painted with a Yellow turret band as an "own forces" distinguishing mark.

All tanks were newly painted in a Light Mud and Blue-Black camouflage scheme for the Italian campaign.

We know one of the crew members:

No: 226196, Trooper A.E. "Buz" Moore, Pretoria Regt. (Comment from Dave George: He was a great chap and I am so lucky to have his, as well as his dad's medals. His dad was a Jameson Raider (Imperial Light Horse Regiment during the Boer War), and I have written a few stories about Mr Moore Snr).

## PRETORIA REGIMENT'S WW2 TACTICAL MARKINGS

The Pretoria Regiment was allocated the colour Yellow for their tactical markings as stated in the Prince Alfred's Guard War Diary dated 26 Jan 44.

## ARM OF SERVICE MARKINGS

Pretoria Regiment received two



HQ Sqn



A Sqdrn



B Sqdrn



C Sqdrn

67

52

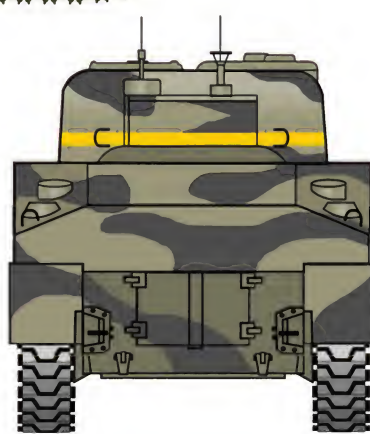
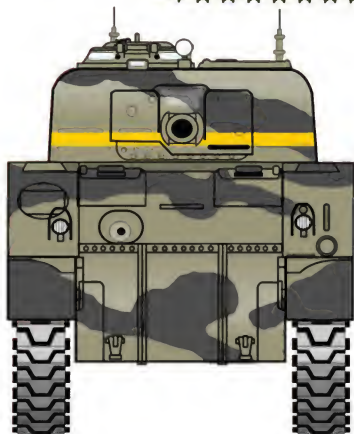
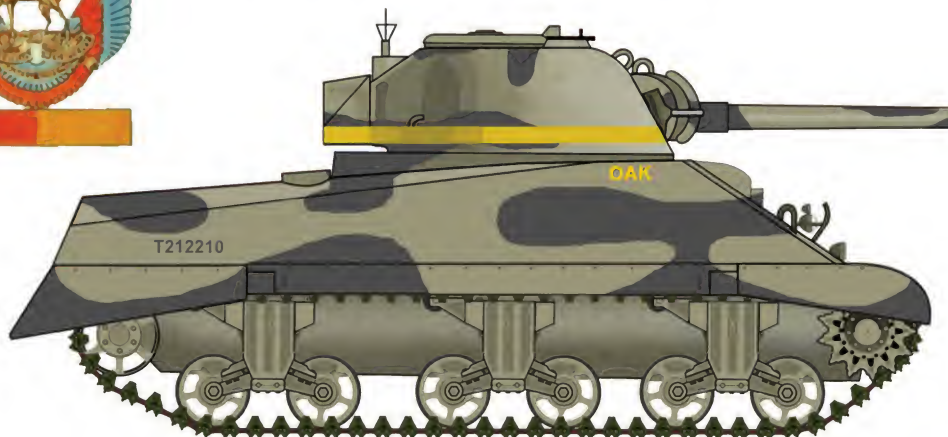
known AoS Markings (although not applied in these photo's, they were applied later in the campaign:

- The first was issued in a letter with the reference 6G1/2 on 11 Oct 43, this was followed up by a letter 6G 10/5 dated 19 Oct 43, allocating Red 67 to the unit.

- The second issue took place in letter with the reference AQ 19/32 dated 16 Mar 44 attached to the British letter with reference number WO letter 57/Veh(A)/648/8(SWV3) dated 28 March 44. A second letter with reference AQ 19/32 dated 02 Jun 44 confirmed the allocation of Red 52 to the unit.

This last AoS was to last until the unit was disbanded in Italy during late 1945 and returned home. ■

## PROFILE OF "OAK"



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The packaging is quite luxurious, with the parts packed snugly between custom formed clear plastic sections.



# FUTURE FLAK ON TWO FEET

Jason Woollett reviews and builds one of Paolo Parente's Dust models, the 1:35 scale resin "Heinrich" Walker.



**D**UST is a "what if" universe created by Paolo Parente, a fictional world based on our true history and mixed-up with science fiction. The setting is around the 1950s Cold War where all the superpowers are developing new high-tech armaments, getting ready for a new war...

The twist is that amongst this

familiar environment we find Nazi Germany and their Axis allies, who were the first to develop new weapon technologies at the end of 1944, ending the war in a different way compared to history.

The Panzer AufklärerLaüfer I-A "Heinrich" mounts one of the deadliest weapon systems since 1940: the 2 cm Flakvierling. Its four guns allow for an extremely rapid

rate of fire, primarily used against low flying attack aircraft.

Axis pilots rapidly found that their weapons could be of great use against light armoured ground targets as well. The "Heinrich" is now part of every unit, guarding the flanks and the air above more heavily protected walkers.

This kit comes in a beautifully presented box with colour pictures

of the completed model. On opening the box, all the pieces are placed in their own spot in a large, clear plastic base. The resin pieces are some of the best I have ever seen in all my years, well cast, with hardly any seams or pour lugs to clean. It is more like a plastic kit than a resin one. A large decal sheet is also included, plus a big colour booklet showing more of



A useful decal sheet offers plenty of hypothetical options, and will come in handy for the WWII German spares box too!



The parts are supplied ready to use. Just pop them out of their packing bed and assemble them.



Some of the elements have been partially assembled.





The model was easy and fun to build.

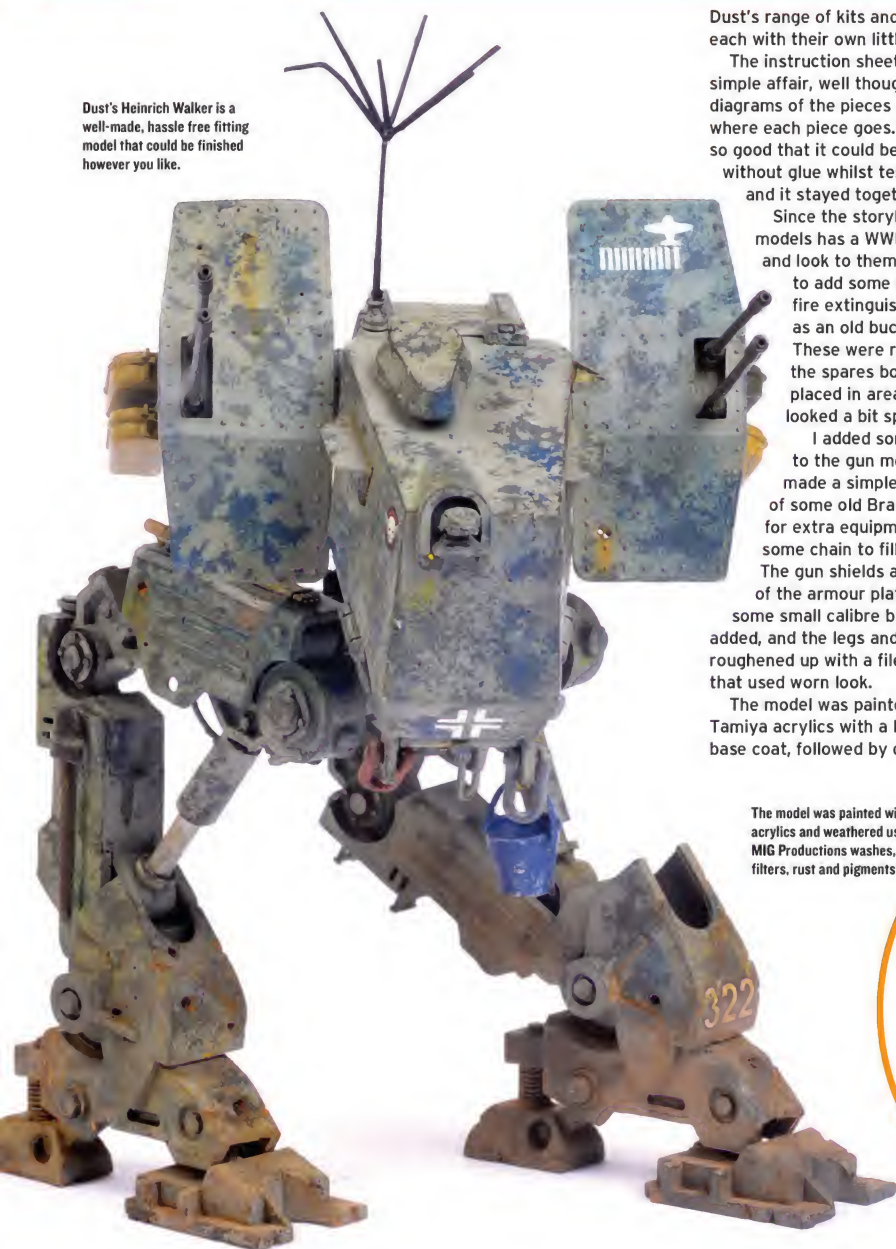


A number of extra parts were added, including this bucket.



Other customising elements included a fire extinguisher, jack mounts and tools.

Dust's Heinrich Walker is a well-made, hassle free fitting model that could be finished however you like.



Dust's range of kits and figures, each with their own little story.

The instruction sheet is a simple affair, well thought out with diagrams of the pieces showing where each piece goes. The fit was so good that it could be assembled without glue whilst test fitting and it stayed together.

Since the storyline of these models has a WWII theme and look to them, I decided to add some tools, a fire extinguisher as well as an old bucket to it. These were raided from the spares box and were placed in areas that looked a bit sparse.

I added some wires to the gun mounts, made a simple rack out of some old Brass etch for extra equipment and some chain to fill the area. The gun shields and some of the armour plates had some small calibre bullet holes added, and the legs and feet were roughened up with a file to give it that used worn look.

The model was painted in Tamiya acrylics with a light grey base coat, followed by dark grey

and a custom mixed blue applied using a small sponge. The 20mm ammo containers were painted dark yellow and dark green to break up the grey/ blue paintwork.

The kit decals were used, along with some kill marks for aircraft that came from DML's 88 Flak gun kit.

A gloss coat was sprayed and then it was time for some Mig washes and filters to random parts of the model.

Mig Light Rust was also used on the bullet holes, to convey old damage. Once these were dry, Tamiya Flat Clear was sprayed straight from the can to give the model a matt finish.

To complete the model, a light dusting of Mig pigments on the lower parts of the leg was done to give it a dirty appearance.

This was a fun build, made easy by such a well-made, hassle free fitting model that could be finished however you like.

I can't wait to work on another one of these kits.

I hope you like it as much as I do. ■

Thanks to Paolo Parente's Dust for the sample  
[www.dustgame.com](http://www.dustgame.com)

The model was painted with Tamiya acrylics and weathered using MIG Productions washes, filters, rust and pigments.





# KIWI SCOUT

## PART ONE - CONSTRUCTION

The Editor bumps the new 1:35 scale HobbyBoss M3A1 White Scout Car straight to the top of the building pile.



**T**he M3 Scout Car was designed by the White Motor Company of Cleveland Ohio in 1937. Following assessment of the initial vehicle by the US Army, an improved version was developed with a longer and wider hull. The characteristic unditching roller was also added to the front of the

vehicle. This improved version was designated M3A1, and it commenced production in 1940. The vehicle was commonly called the White Scout Car after its manufacturer.

The M3A1 was a full-time four wheel drive armoured car powered by a six cylinder, 5.2 litre engine developing 82 kilowatts (110 hp).

The transmission featured four forward gears and one reverse and a two-speed transfer case. It was fitted with two seats at the front, and up to six infantry could be seated in the rear. The steel body featured armour thickness between 6 mm and 13 mm. A skate rail was fitted around the inner circumference of the body,

providing mounts for one .50 cal and two .30 cal machine guns.

The White Scout Car fulfilled the roles of reconnaissance, ambulance, command car and gun tractor. It first saw action against Japanese forces in the Philippines during 1941 and 1942; and was then used by Cavalry units of the US Army during the North





It has been a very long time between releases of newly tooled 1:35 scale White Scout Car kits.



African and Sicilian campaigns of 1942 and 1943. The M3A1 proved itself vulnerable in front line operations due to its open top and its relatively poor firepower. Its off-road abilities were also limited. By the end of 1943, the White Scout Car was largely replaced in US service by the new 6x6 M8 Greyhound and the M20 Utility Car.

The M3A1 was also supplied to the USSR, Britain and Commonwealth nations, as well as other Allied armies under the Lend-Lease programme. More than 3,000 were supplied to the Soviet Union alone.

Despite its limitations, the White Scout Car saw widespread service with Allied armies until the end of

the Second World War and beyond. Although the M8 was generally an improvement over the M3A1, the newer six-wheel Greyhound performed even more poorly than its predecessor in deep snow and in muddy conditions, so the White Scout Car retained an important role during 1944/45 in the difficult terrain of Italy and the harsh

winter of Northern Europe.

In 1948, at least a few vehicles took part in the Arab-Israeli War; and France used the White Scout Car in the First Indochina War and in Algeria.

#### THE WHITE SCOUT CAR IN 1:35 SCALE

Peerless Max released the first 1:35 scale White Scout Car during ▶





HobbyBoss' M3A1 White Scout Car features gorgeous surface detail, including raised screw heads with crisp slot detail.



The prominent skate rail is a three-part assembly. This is the middle section, which is destined to be sandwiched between top and bottom parts.



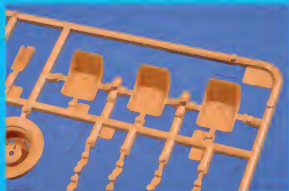
The chassis is moulded in one piece with the front mudguards.



The interior floor features nice raised treadplate detail and a minimum of ejector pin circles.



The tyres are injection moulded plastic, but the hubs are moulded separately. This will make painting easier, as the fit is very tight and completely gap free.



Three of the six crew seats that fill the rear of the vehicle. Separate cushions are supplied.



This is the fixed section of the engine deck. All the engine panels are separate parts.



The engine is straightforward to assemble. The blades of the photo-etched engine fan were bent before gluing the part to the front of the engine.



Some extra detail in the form of spark plugs and plumbing might be added here, but I was not planning to display my engine so it remained unadorned.

the 1970s. This was actually a very nice kit for its day but it suffered from some typical shortcomings of the era. These included thick plastic, a plague of intrusive ejector pin marks - both raised and recessed - and some oversimplified detail. In the intervening three decades, the kit has been reborn by Italeri, Zvezda and most recently Revell.

During 2004, Zvezda added an injection-moulded canvas cover to their version of the kit. This tonneau was also included in Revell's 2006 release.

The Peerless Max / Italeri / Zvezda / Revell kit represented the later version with jerry can racks on the side of the body, although the early wheels with the large lightening holes were included.

#### HOBBYBOSS 1:35 SCALE M3A1 WHITE SCOUT CAR

The M3A1 White Scout Car has not made a regular appearance

on hobby shop shelves for some years. I recently tracked down the 2006 Revell boxing on Ebay with the intention of scratch building a new rear body and adding some other improvement. I was therefore pleased to hear that HobbyBoss would save me the trouble by releasing a state-of-the-art 21st century White Scout Car in 1:35 scale.

I ordered a kit locally and it shot straight to the top of my building pile upon arrival.

HobbyBoss' 1:35 scale M3A1 White Scout Car comprises 284 parts in an attractive tan coloured plastic, four parts in clear and 15 photo-etched parts on a modest-sized fret. Markings for two vehicles are offered.

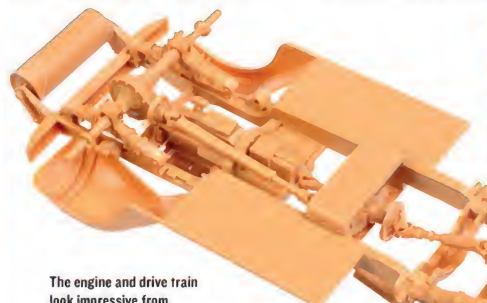
This model represents the early version with lamps fitted on the side of the body in front of the doors.

The plastic parts are well moulded and generally free from imperfections in any areas that will

be visible on the finished model, although there are a few ejector pin circles on the back of the rear driver's bulkhead.

At first glance, surface detail appears very good. Upon closer inspection, it looks even better. In addition to raised domed rivet heads and tie-down points moulded in place, the body features lovely screw head detail with recessed slots.

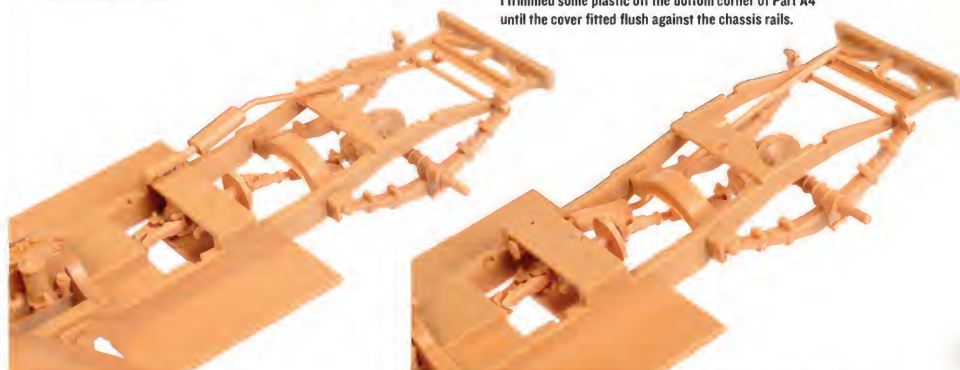
Interior detail is almost complete, with seats (separate cushions for the six rear seats), driver's pedals and levers all present and accounted for inside the body. The engine will be a good basis for further detailing if the modeller wishes to display this feature, but won't waste too much time for those who will seal the front body panels. The radiator housing and separate front louvers are nicely done, but the radiator itself is inexplicably missing from the kit. You will be able to see



The engine and drive train look impressive from underneath the vehicle.



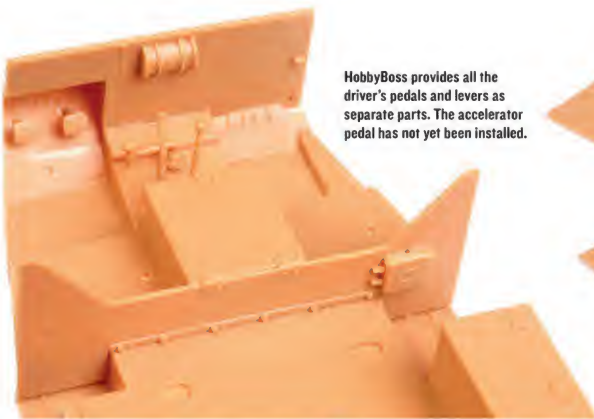
The transfer case - Part A4 - interfered with its cover - Part D36. I trimmed some plastic off the bottom corner of Part A4 until the cover fitted flush against the chassis rails.



Rather dopyly, I originally glued the exhaust pipe and muffler to the top of the chassis.

Fortunately I realised my error before the glue had completely set. This is how it is supposed to look. There is a big gap between the front and rear sections of the exhaust pipe, but you can't see it after the body and chassis have been assembled.





HobbyBoss provides all the driver's pedals and levers as separate parts. The accelerator pedal has not yet been installed.



Fit is generally very good, but you do have to take care that sprue attachments are completely removed and smoothed on mating surfaces. This is the interior sub-assembly ready to be hemmed in.



I found that the side panels fitted better if the raised locating tabs on the floor were sanded slightly shorter.



This minor surgery ensured a snug fit between the floor, the back driver's cab wall and the body sidewalls.



Plastic clamps were used to hold the body to the chassis while the cement set. Contrary to the instructions, detail parts have not been added to the rear body panel yet. This makes it easier to manipulate the body while the parts are being assembled.

straight through the open louvres to the front of the engine if this issue is not addressed,

The skate rail is supplied as a three-part sandwich, and it looks great. This may be fitted with two .30 cal and one .50 cal machine guns, all supplied with the kit.

The wheels and tyres are injection-moulded parts. I much prefer plastic wheels to the flexible vinyl often supplied in kits these days. Plastic tyres are easier to work with, and they take paint and weathering better than vinyl. Each tyre is moulded with a subtle flat spot on the bottom. Although the vehicle itself is an early version, the wheels appear to be the late variation with the smaller lightening holes. No doubt we will see a flurry of after-market resin replacements appearing in short order.

Options include poseable engine panels, armoured visor and armoured side flaps on top of the doors.

Detail parts are generally well done (the tool clamps/straps and

the tow hooks are particularly good), but I think the mesh covers in the headlight brush guards look overscale and chunky. This is a shame as they almost totally obscure the headlights, which are some of the best I have seen in injection-moulded plastic.

Photo-etched parts include the engine fan and brush guard for the blackout lamp. A number of photo-etched parts are not used for this version, including jerry can holders.

Markings are supplied for two vehicles - an early stateside M3A1 in overall Olive Drab; and a New Zealand operated Scout Car in Italy during 1945. The instructions call out Olive Drab and NATO Black for the Kiwi scheme, but the colours should really be Light Mud and Blue Black (NATO Black is actually not a bad match for the latter, but we'll cover that discussion in Part Two).

Furthermore, all the decals for the New Zealand option seem to be significantly undersized. The serial number has also picked up a spurious "I" at the beginning

of the sequence. This is probably the result of misinterpretation of a photo that shows the bottom driver's door hinge casting a sharp vertical shadow in front of the serial number.

The decal sheet offers dials, placards and stencils for the instrument panel too. These are really nicely presented.

## CONSTRUCTION

The engine is the first sub-assembly. This was quickly completed. My model was destined to have the engine panels glued in place, so I did not add any extra detail.

Steps 2 through 7 cover the addition of parts to the chassis. At one point I was clearly not paying attention and I glued the

exhaust pipe and muffler - Part C42 - to the top of the chassis and not the bottom. The instructions were quite clear on this sequence so I only have myself to blame. Fortunately I realised my mistake before the glue had completely set, so I prised the part off. It was a little tricky threading the exhaust pipe back through the additional parts that had been attached in later steps, but I suppose it served me right for not paying enough attention in the first place.

The only other problem of note was that the cover for the transfer case - Part D36 - would not sit flush against the chassis rails. This problem was easily overcome by trimming some plastic off the corner of the transfer case itself (Part A4). ▶

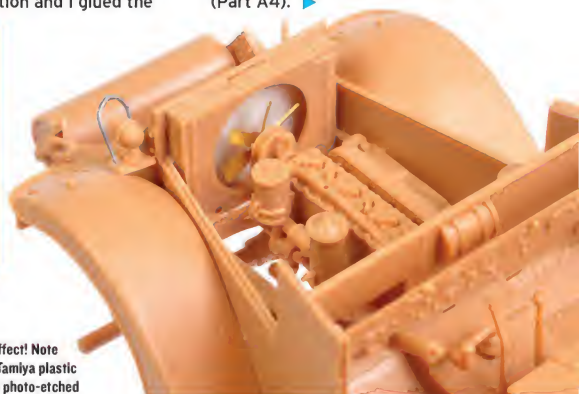


HobbyBoss supplies a nice radiator housing, but they have completely forgotten about the radiator itself!



I blanked off the see-through housing with a piece of Evergreen plastic sheet cut to size. Just make sure this does not interfere with the front radiator louvres or the engine fan to its rear.

No more see-through effect! Note the bent staple from a Tamiya plastic bag used to replace the photo-etched brushguard for the blackout light.







The forward body is also made up from multiple panels. Careful assembly will be rewarded with admirable fit.

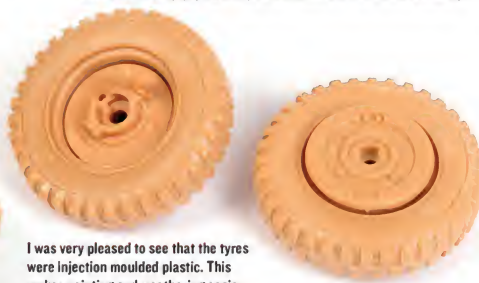


I glued a length of stout plastic strip underneath the upper engine deck to act as extra support for the top engine covers.



I was obviously not *quite* careful enough with the fit. To be fair though, this was the only gap that required attention in the entire assembly.

Milliput White, a two-part Epoxy putty, was used to fill the gap. It was then smoothed with a damp fingertip and sanded flat once set.



I was very pleased to see that the tyres were injection moulded plastic. This makes painting and weathering easier.



Unfortunately, I did not realise that the wheels were keyed to allow the subtle flat spots to sit on the ground in only one position. Oops.

◀ The instructions are easy to follow and they label the parts correctly, but there are a couple of areas where I would suggest slight deviations.

- In Step 7, the unditching roller is probably best glued in place. I can't see any advantage to letting it roll freely.
- There is no need to attach the wheels to the axles in Step 8. You can leave these off for the time being and install them when painting is complete.
- In Steps 10 and 11, the seats do not have to be glued in place yet. If you prefer, you can leave these out until painting is complete.
- In Step 12, do not add any detail parts to the rear panel yet. An empty rear panel will make it easier to align with the side body parts and the floor. You are also less likely to break off some of the more delicate details.

Apart from these changes, construction was quite straightforward.

I did find that the side panels fitted better when the locating tabs moulded to the outside edges of the floor were trimmed ever so slightly. I also used plastic clamps and tape to hold the body sides and rear panel to the floor while the cement set - another good

reason to delay adding any parts to the rear panel before this stage.

The mysteriously missing radiator was addressed next. I simply cut a rectangle from scrap Evergreen plastic sheet and glued it inside the radiator housing. This effectively blanked off the front of the engine compartment. Something slightly fancier with radiator texture and a raised outline might be justified if you are planning to display the engine compartment, but this simple solution worked well for me.

The louvres in front of the radiator may be posed fully closed, fully open or anywhere in between. Fit was a little tight and I found it tricky to line up the four louvres at the same angle, but I think I managed it in the end.

I was a bit worried about alignment of the six separate panels that make up the front body of the car, but my fears were unfounded - the fit was very good. I was also concerned about possible lack of support for the top engine panels,

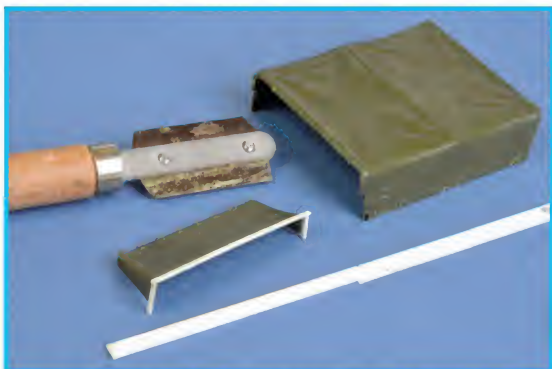
New Zealand White Scout Cars in Italy seemed invariably to be fitted with a canvas cover. I checked the fit of the Zvezda / Revell tonneau on the new HobbyBoss kit. Note the front roller now installed too.



The fit was not bad, but the old tonneau was a few millimetres short and a little squeazy in width.







The front of the tonneau was cut off with a razor saw and a shim of strip styrene installed.



Reference photos show some vehicles with side curtains. I fabricated these using Kneadatite Blue/Yellow Epoxy Putty Tape.



Kneadatite was also used to create an open rear flap, flipped up onto the top of the tonneau. The loose straps were sliced from leftover Kneadatite.



With the inside of the bottom lip sanded thinner and the extra length added, the cover fitted quite well. I realised at this stage that my subject vehicle was not equipped with the front roller, so I removed it.



A couple of lengths of plastic strip were glued to each side of the tonneau interior to accurately locate the height of the cover when fitted to the body.



Milliput was used to depict an overlapping join in the canvas.



Once again, Kneadatite was broken out to make a long rolled tarpaulin for the front mudguard. The auxiliary lamps on the side of the body were not fitted to this vehicle, so the locating holes were plugged and filled.

so I glued a length of plastic strip underneath the upper engine deck to act as extra support and an additional aid to alignment. In the end, although the fit was a bit of a squeeze in places (two of the panels were so tight that I thought they might actually pop out), all the panels lined up against each other with no gaps whatsoever.

There was a slight step and gap at the front of one of the panels however, where it was supposed to meet the top of the radiator housing. This was the only gap on the entire model - a testament to HobbyBoss' impressive engineering. The gap was filled with Milliput White, and sanded down when the epoxy had thoroughly set.

I found HobbyBoss' soft photo-etched metal was difficult to fold into the required shape for the blackout light brush guard (Parts PE8 and PE9). Rather than

continue to struggle with this metal origami, I fashioned a simple replacement using a staple taken from a Tamiya plastic bag (Tamiya staples are undoubtedly the finest on the planet). It was bent to shape using my Mission Models Multi-Tool.

Although construction was nearly done, there was still time for a couple more self-imposed gaffes. I realised at this late stage that the New Zealand machine that I was depicting did not have the roller fitted to the front. After some soul-searching, I finally decided to cut the roller off at the bumper bar. This was achieved in about three minutes

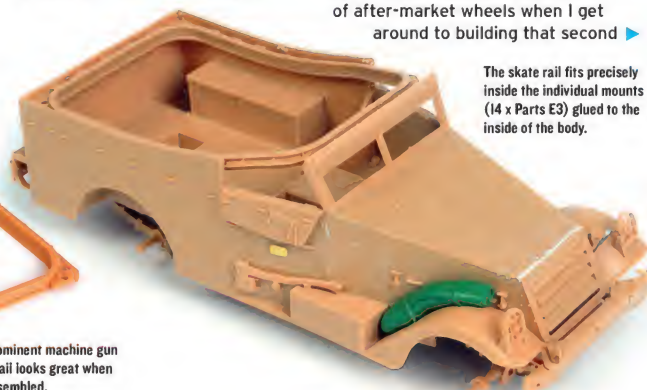
with a pair of sprue cutters and a sanding stick.

HobbyBoss has moulded all four wheels at exactly the same angle so the lightening holes and what I assume to be wheel balance weights are perfectly lined up with each other. I thought this looked a bit too uniform so I cut off the locating tabs on the inside of the wheels and randomly realigned

the tyres. Unfortunately, I did not realise at the time that the combination of the tabbed wheel/tyre assembly and the keyed location on the axles meant that the tyres' flat spots were also randomly positioned around the wheel. Now, none of them would on sit flat on the ground. Fortunately, I had a second kit and used the tyres from that one. I'll buy a set of after-market wheels when I get around to building that second



The prominent machine gun skate rail looks great when it is assembled.



The skate rail fits precisely inside the individual mounts (14 x Parts E3) glued to the inside of the body.



kit, or I could even use the early-version wheels from the Revell kit!

The tonneau cover is in place in all of the reference photos of New Zealand Scout Cars in Italy that I have seen. I was curious to see if the Zvezda-moulded tonneau in my Revell kit might work with this new model. Test-fitting suggested that the cover was only a few millimetres too short.

With nothing to lose, I cut the cover into two sections and added a shim from strip plastic. When the cover was glued back together, I also thinned the inside of the sides to improve the fit against HobbyBoss' body. The lengthened cover now fitted the kit perfectly.

Side curtains and a rear flap were formed from Kneadatite two-part epoxy. With the blue and yellow epoxy parts thoroughly blended, the resulting squishy green ball was rolled into a thin sheet. I rolled the Kneadatite using a dampened glass jar on greaseproof paper to make sure the epoxy did not stick to any of the surfaces.

The large rear flap was cut from the sheet, attached to the back of the plastic tonneau, and flipped up over itself. The side curtains were cut from the sheet and rolled into a credible shape. Narrow straps were then cut from the same material and attached to the big rear flap and the side curtains.

I still had plenty of workable Kneadatite left, so I rolled it again between my palms and flattened out another sheet. This was formed into a rolled tarpaulin and placed directly on the passenger's side mudguard. ■



A White M3A1 Scout Car at the 2007 Santa Fe Event in Roermond, the Netherlands. Note the relatively fine mesh on the headlight brushguards (image via Wikimedia Commons).



The same vehicle from the rear. Note the excellent view of the late style wheels – the same as depicted in the kit (image via Wikimedia Commons).



**NEXT TIME:** In the next instalment, Brett will cover the painting and weathering of HobbyBoss' 1:35 M3A1 White Scout Car.

## Modelspec

HobbyBoss 1:35 scale M3A1 White Scout Car  
Kit No. 82451

### Accessories Used:

Tonneau adapted from Revell's rebboxed Italeri M3A1 White Scout Car (03078)  
Ultracast 1:35 scale WWII British Empire Steel Munition Boxes C.224 Mk 1 (135016)  
Bison Decals "New Zealand Armour in Italy" (35060)  
Archer Fine Transfers 1:35 scale "US Stars in Circles. (AR35048W)

### Tools and Modelling Products:

Iwata HP-CH Airbrush, Aztek A470 Airbrush, Olfa Circle Cutter, Mission Models Multi-Tool, Tamiya Extra Thin Cement, Revell Contacta Cement, Gator's Grip acrylic glue, Kneadatite Blue/Yellow Epoxy, Putty Tape, Milliput White Two-Part Epoxy Putty, Evergreen sheet and strip styrene, Staple from a Tamiya bag!

### Paints and Finishing Products:

Tamiya Acrylics: XF-1 Flat Black, XF-2 Flat White, XF-49 Khaki, XF-52 Flat Earth, XF-54 Dark Sea Grey, XF-55 Deck Tan, XF-57 Buff, XF-64 Red Brown, XF-69 NATO Black, XF-78 Wooden Deck Tan.  
Tamiya Spray: Grey Primer  
Vallejo Panzer Aces Acrylics: 310 Old Wood, 311 New Wood, 314 Canvas, 316 Dark Mud  
Vallejo Model Colour Acrylics: 70877 Goldbrown  
Gunze-Sangyo Acrylics: H20 Flat Clear  
Model Master: Flat Clear Lacquer  
Future Floor Polish  
Tamiya Liquid Surface Primer  
Winsor & Newton Oil Paints: 25 Lamp Black; 35 Raw Umber  
Sin Industries Filter: P402 Brown for Desert Yellow  
Mig Pigments: P030 Beach Sand; P234 Rubbel (sic) Dust

- ✓ Good fit, excellent surface detail, looks accurate, high level of detail with the option to display the engine via separate panels.
- ✗ Missing radiator, heavy headlight brushguard, no tonneau, some oversized and inaccurate decals.

### Available from

HobbyBoss kits are available in the UK from Creative Models Limited [www.creativemodels.co.uk](http://www.creativemodels.co.uk)  
HobbyBoss kits are available in Australia from Creative Models Australia [www.creativemodels.com.au](http://www.creativemodels.com.au)

Rating ●●●●●●●●●●



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# EPIPHANY

Jamie Haggo shares his impressions and experiences as he builds his first ever armour model.



**F**irst of all, let me lay my cards on the table. I am a died in the wool aircraft modeller. In fact, I had never built a tank or vehicle before. However, one day recently I developed the urge to have a go at a tank.

I was visiting a modelling friend who had a couple of Mig Jimenez's DVDs. I was hugely impressed at the finish of the final tank and very interested in the various weathering techniques on show. Also, I have had a dabble with

pigments with my aircraft models and had got fairly confident with them, but aircraft don't really offer the canvas to explore the possibilities of pigments.

During the 2010 Scale Model World show at Telford I was on the hunt for a bargain tank. My reasoning was that if I mucked it up I wouldn't be too upset! Other considerations when choosing a kit was it had to be a World War Two vehicle as modern stuff doesn't really float my boat. It also had to have the tracks

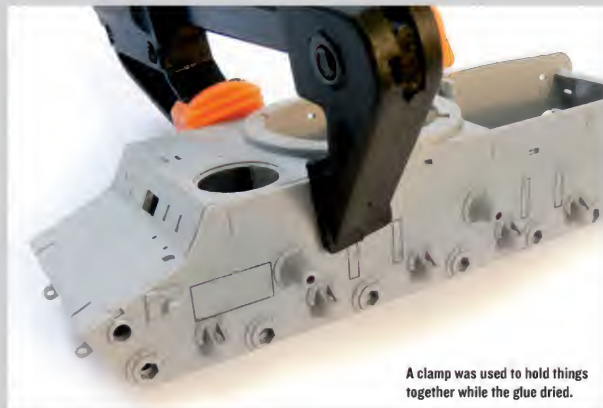
draping over the little wheels at the top (did I mention I was an aircraft modeller, please excuse the lack of correct terminology). I think that this effect really gives a sense of weight to the tracks and vehicle. With all that in mind, I was delighted to pick up the HobbyBoss KV-1 in 1:48 scale for £5 from the nice chaps at Hobby Link Japan about an hour before the end of the show.

I was very impressed when I had a look at the kit. The parts were crisply moulded with some

really nice detail. Also included were photo-etched parts for the support brackets, wire for the cable (towing hawser?) and styrene tracks which were broken into lengths for the top and bottom with individual links for the ends. The painting guide was very nice with three interesting options plus a small decal sheet. All in all, this seemed to be a very nice package and in the opinion of most online reviewers, better than the Tamiya kit.



The engraved panels that are required to be filled are highlighted here. I didn't bother as the weathering will cover them up.



A clamp was used to hold things together while the glue dried.





## HULL

The instructions would have you fill in some engraved detail on the lower hull however I decided not to do this as I was intending to cover this area in mud. The next job was to glue the wheel support arms. These are keyed to avoid misplacement however when fitting the tracks I must have bent a few as the tank doesn't sit level on a flat surface. I firmly believe this is my fault and not the kit's.

I had debated how to do the tracks and at what stage of the

build. I decided to do them last after painting to make things easier however I'm not overly convinced this was the best way ahead. On my next tank I'll have a go at gluing the wheels and tracks together so they can be added as single units at the end.

There isn't much else to say about the hull really. It all fits pretty well and I was happy with the detail. Even the solid radiator grills are good enough in plastic form. I think that the lack of after market stuff for the model is an indication

that HobbyBoss has done pretty well. In my limited experience, Soviet stuff from the era was pretty basic and crude anyway.

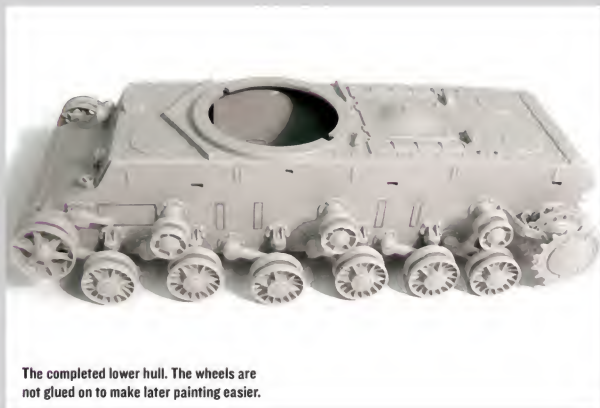
## TURRET

Again, things with the turret went well.

I left off the machine guns and main gun barrel to ease painting. The turret roof had a pretty untidy join and here I stumbled across a technique for representing weld seams which hid the gaps rather effectively. First I applied Gunze's

Mr Dissolved Putty all around the join with a cocktail stick. After about 10 minutes when the putty had gone off but was still soft I tapped a scalpel blade right around the weld seam. This resulted in a pretty good representation of a welded joint and to my untrained eye looks neat.

With the turret completed, it was time to start painting. This is the bit that I had been waiting for - although it only took two evenings to get to this stage! ►



The completed lower hull. The wheels are not glued on to make later painting easier.



HobbyBoss provides photo-etched parts for the hull supports which is a neat touch, plastic would not have worked being far too clunky.





The weld seam was reproduced with Mr Dissolved Putty. Here it is being applied with a cocktail stick.



A scapel blade is used to produce the beading when the putty is dry but still soft.



The completed turret. The gun barrel is a push fit, which simplifies painting considerably.

## PAINTING

In this section I will describe the painting of the model, which is an amalgamation of the techniques described in the aforementioned DVDs plus a few from my aircraft technique bank. I kicked off with some pre-shading. This enhanced the base colour and helped to create shadow and highlights. Next up was the green. I had wanted to buy some Vallejo paint for this model however I couldn't track down the correct shade. I therefore had to look elsewhere and I managed to find a pot of Xtracrylics from Hannants that looked good. Being semi-gloss, there would be no need for a clear coat when it came to do the weathering stage.

I had chosen the scheme with a partial winter whitewash as this would be a more interesting

scheme to try the weathering techniques on rather than plain Jane green! Before the white went on though, Humbol Maskol was applied with a sponge in order to simulate some pretty severe paint chipping. I had experimented with the hairspray technique on an old model however I couldn't get it to work. When I started to scrub, all the white came off. I think I may have used too much hairspray but this proves the value of having a knackered old kit to practice new techniques on rather than ruining our latest pride and joy!

I used Gunze Sangyo white with a few drops of clear gloss for the whitewash finish. This was thinned rather more than usual and the effect built up using the underlying green as a pre-shade, which again adds depth to the final finish.

## WEATHERING

With the main painting done, it was time for some weathering. Something that a lot of aircraft modellers do not use is a filter. I have had very little success in the past with oil washes as I can't seem to find a paint/thinner combination that works very well so I invested in some Mig Dark Brown wash. This was diluted with white spirit to produce the right opacity for a filter and applied to the model. I then used neat wash as a pin wash to highlight the raised detail. This was blended into the paint work with white spirit.

It was at this point that I realised I had forgotten to apply the decals. It was Eduard to the rescue as I had some of their vinyl number masks so it was straightforward to paint the numbers onto the turret.

Further paint chips and

scratches were applied with a fine brush, for this I used a custom mix from dark browns, greys and metallic paints. This was blended in repeating the filter stage again.

Next up it was the rain marks and vertical streaking. Again not having any bespoke products I used the wash that, to my delight, worked really rather well all owing to its consistency. I had to be careful not to remove it completely when blending it in though.

The streaking for the rust spots was done using pigments. I mixed up some Warplugs dark rust pigment with water and applied it to the model and this was then streaked down using a damp clean brush.

## PIGMENTS

For the mud, I tried copying the DVD. Humbrol enamel paint was mixed with a little white spirit and



Stage One of the painting is the pre-shade in order to create natural shadow and highlights.



The pre-shading is very subtle under the camouflage coat but does its job well.



Humbrol Maskol applied with a sponge is an effective way to simulate heavy paint chipping.



The white was painted freehand with an airbrush. Note how the effect is built up in a random patchy fashion, which adds depth and authenticity to the finish.



You can see how effective the chipping technique is with the Maskol rubbed off.



More chips and scratches are added with paint. The chips are built up in layers, which makes for easier control of the overall effect.





An overall shot bringing the weathering effects together.



I wasn't too happy with the mud splatter effect.

plaster. This gloop was then blown onto the model from the end of a paint brush using my airbrush. To be honest, I wasn't that happy with the result. It may have been the gloop itself or the fact that 1:48 scale doesn't lend itself to the technique. Either way, I'll stick to my usual method of dabbing pigment where I want it then fixing it with white spirit, a technique I used on the rest of the hull using various Warpig's mud type pigments. In the photos they look a bit too orange, more like rust, however in the flesh it does look more like mud. Honest Guv!

## TRACKS

The tracks were made up in sections using the rather handy jig that is supplied with the kit. I did struggle at times, as I don't think the instructions have the right amount of individual links. I think you need at least one more than is depicted, however there are spares on the sprue. It think this is where I bent the support arms as it was very fiddly to get the tracks in place. As I said before, I think for my next tank I'll try gluing the tracks to the wheels.

Painting was straightforward. I mixed up a suitable track-like colour (a sort of dark grey brown) and then set about with the mud pigments. These were fixed with water and Vallejo varnish. I used three different shades of mud for variation.

With the tracks in place and all the delicate sticky out bits applied, it was all done. In fact, the entire project took less than a week, but then I was on leave at the time so wasn't just limited to evenings.

## FINAL THOUGHTS

Well, here she is, my first ever tank. I have to say I thoroughly enjoyed the project and I am indebted to Mig Jimenez for the

inspiration his DVD provided and my mate Andy Brown who introduced me to it. I am hooked and will definitely be doing some more AFVs in the future. Hopefully I will get more comfortable with the techniques that are now in my bank. As for the kit, it is a winner being well detailed and easy to make - the ideal canvas for the novice or the expert alike. ■

## Modelspec

HobbyBoss 1:48 scale KV-1 Model 1942  
"Heavy Cast Turret" Kit No. 84813

## Paints and Finishing Products

Gunze Mr Dissolved Putty, Maskol, Humbrol Enamels, Xtracolor paints, Warpigs pastels, Mig Productions Washes.

✓ Simple parts breakdown; good fit; well detailed; link and length tracks; interesting camouflage options.

✗ Solid engine vents; wrong number of track links called out in instructions.

## Available from

HobbyBoss kits are available from Creative Models Limited [www.creativemodels.co.uk](http://www.creativemodels.co.uk)

## Rating ●●●●●●○



HobbyBoss' 1:48 scale KV-1 is nicely detailed and easy to build.



The turret numbers were applied using Eduard masks after I had forgotten to add the kit decals!

I really like the look of the top run of the tracks draping over the return rollers. It lends a sense of weight to the vehicle.





### DRAGON

#### 1:6 SCALE M16 + AK-47 • ITEM NO. DN75035

Few guns in history are so iconic to their country of origin as the American M16 and the Russian AK-47.

Think of an American soldier in a peace-keeping role somewhere in the world, and you'll think of them armed with an M16; the rebels or terrorists will almost certainly be imagined carrying 'AKs'. Worlds apart in both design and use, these two weapons are almost perfectly matched and make a great pair for Dragon's latest 1:6 scale weapons model kit.

Similar in look to the World War Two German MP 44, the Avtomat-Kalashnikova (AK) 47 entered Russian Army service in 1951. Firing a 7.62 mm round, the first AKs had wooden stocks, but soon after were fitted with a metal folding version.

The 'held together with tape and string' variant of the AK-47 appears to be an African rebel improvisation that bears testament to the AK's ability to be operated under extreme conditions by untrained soldiers.

In contrast, the M16 is a far more complex weapon. Made extensively of aluminium and plastic, and firing a smaller 5.56 mm round, the US weapon entered service almost to coincide with the beginning of American involvement in Vietnam.

The lightweight M16 was ideal for their smaller built Asian allies, but these early models were prone to stoppages due to the harsh jungle conditions. Today the M-16 is one of the most effective personal weapons in the world, with many specialist variants being produced.

Dragon's kit version of these weapons supplies enough parts to complete two M16A2s, a fixed stock and a folding stock AK-47, and two US combat knives. The US weapons are on two separate sprues, while the AKs parts are held together on a third. Each gun is supplied with three magazines. As usual, Dragon's grey injection moulded plastic parts are crisp and flash free. Also included is nylon material to make the slings.

Not only is this Dragon kit an interesting one to make, but it also represents good value for money, being a far more cost effective way to arm your 1:6 scale army than buying the equivalent weapons on the spares market.

With two different versions of the AK supplied in the kit, it would however have been an even nicer package had it featured one of Dragon's M4 Carabines instead of two of the same M16s.

Variety is after all, the spice of life!

Highly Recommended.

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)

Ade Pitman



### DRAGON

#### 1:16 SCALE WEHRMACHT UNTEROFFIZIER (EASTERN FRONT 1943) • KIT NO. 1601

James Coburn's portrayal of the scruffy but effective Feldwebel Rolf Steiner in the 1977 movie, 'Cross of Iron' could be said to personify the Wehrmacht on the Eastern Front in 1943.

A bad year for Hitler's army in Russia, it started with the defeat at Stalingrad, and continued with a retreat that eventually led to Berlin, the very heart of the Third Reich.

During this period the German troops found that the Russian PPSH sub-machine gun was far better suited to the sub-zero winter temperatures than their weapons, and so they used captured weapons whenever they could. Not only that, but the Russian gun held almost twice as many bullets.

It is because of this, that Dragon's 1:16 scale Wehrmacht Unteroffizier (Eastern Front 1943) kit is armed with the Russian weapon.

Injection moulded in Dragon's traditional grey plastic, the kit comprises only 22 plastic parts, plus a display stand and a sprue of photo-etched medals. Clearly, assembly of this kit won't take long. As you'd expect from Dragon, the mouldings are crisp, with no flash and only a few mould lines that will need removing before or during construction.

The detailing on the uniform is superb, and highlights the character's medals and awards, making the figure ideal for modellers who enjoy the challenge of painting these tiny trinkets. Overall, Dragon's Eastern Front Wehrmacht Unteroffizier may be few in parts, but it certainly has the potential to build into a stunning figurine.

Note that the last image is Dragon's 1:6 scale Action Figure 'Steiner' next to the model kit. This figure is quite rare now.

Highly Recommended.

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)

Ade Pitman



### Large Scale Gallery

#### DRAGON 1:6 M2 .50 CAL BY JOHN ELLINGSON

John Ellingson has sent some photos of his built and painted 1:6 scale .50 cal M2 heavy machine gun.





Dragon has substantially upgraded their earlier 1:35 scale Pz.Bef.Wg.I to deliver this Initial Production version. **Graham Tetley** takes a close look at the contents.

# RADIO PANZER

**D**ragon released the later production version of the Pz.Bef.Wg.I as kit no. 6222 back in 2005. It was 3-in-1 kit and had a different frame antenna layout to the initial production variant. Most frustratingly though, the track links came on sprues, with each link having five separate attachments points. Take it from me, a lot of them snapped and it was a chore cleaning them up. So much for the hobby being relaxing!

Dragon has carried forward some of the sprues from 6222 in this kit, but about 50% is new. In fact, I let forth with a cry of delight when I saw the bag of Magic Tracks!

Dragon's 1/35 scale Pz.Bef.Wg.I Initial Production comprises around 500 plastic parts, an etched fret with 30 parts, 16 brass wheel rims plus a two-part pre-bent metal frame antenna.

The upper hull and superstructure are carried over from the previous kit but the tools, road wheels, suspension arms, idlers and sprockets are from the recently released and re-tooled Panzer I Early. We now get brass rims for the road wheels, a small etched fret with bits for the exhaust shield, fenders, tool clamps and other bits, new markings and painting instructions for six pre-war vehicles. There are also optional parts for the Commander's hatches or a cupola. The standout feature is the new,

pre-shaped, metal antenna frame and new frame mounts. This is actually optional, but why would you want to leave it off of the kit?

It is almost a cliché, but the parts in this kit are clean, crisp and devoid of any flash. There are also no visible ejector pin marks on those items that can be seen when built. Whilst the detail on the old parts is good, it is outstanding on the newer items (especially the Commander's cupola and hatches). Fine weld beads and countersunk screws abound. I should also add that you get a full clear sprue that contains the vision ports, glass vision blocks, headlight lenses and the outer vision port supports. Personally, I don't see much point in using them as there is no interior provided, but you get the grey plastic ones as well so it is down to the builder as to which version is built.

Now, I cannot speak for the new parts, but I have built the older kit so I can pass some comments on construction, especially as the main hull is exactly the same kit. The superstructure sides and their separate panels will need care as there are some small gaps left when you put them all together. This is especially true around the hull sides where they join the fenders. Pressure is needed to get the back deck to sit down into place, but as always the best advice is to test fit before applying glue.

I must mention a potential

problem with this kit that came to light on the Missing-Lynx.com Axis discussion group. There should be 10 road wheels in this kit and 20 of the brass wheel rims, but for some reason Dragon only included 8 wheels and 16 rims. My review kit came with an extra sprue of road wheels but only has 16 of the rims. You can hide the missing rims by simply leaving them off of two each of the innermost wheels, but if you are short of road wheels that is a problem. If this is the case I would suggest that you contact DragonCare or your country's Dragon importer.

What I like about this kit is the fact that you get options to do it in a scheme other than Panzer Grey. Three examples are finished in the 3-tone pre-war green/brown/yellow scheme, one in brown and Panzer Gray and, if you must, two monotone Panzer Grey machines.

This is a nice little kit. The new running gear parts and tracks are most welcome, as is the new antenna array. It is not a totally new kit but it is still most welcome. The error with the road wheels and rims is bizarre, but may have been corrected by the time you read this. If you, like me, like your early war vehicles then this is a must. It comes highly recommended. ■

Dragon kits are distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited  
[www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)



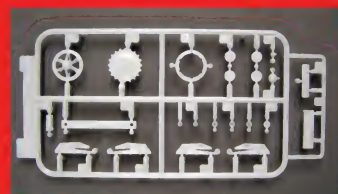
Close up of detail on the superstructure.



More new superstructure parts.



Lovely detail on the new suspension.



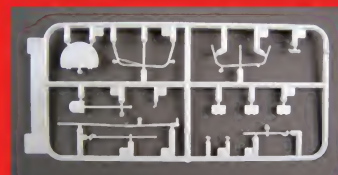
The new running gear.



Engine deck parts.



Lovely weld detail on the newly tooled cupola.



A clue to an up-coming Panzer IA perhaps?



The kit includes ready-to-assemble individual Magic Track links.



The photo-etched brass wheel rims are a nice touch.



The pre-bent antenna frame will look great on the model.





## Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76



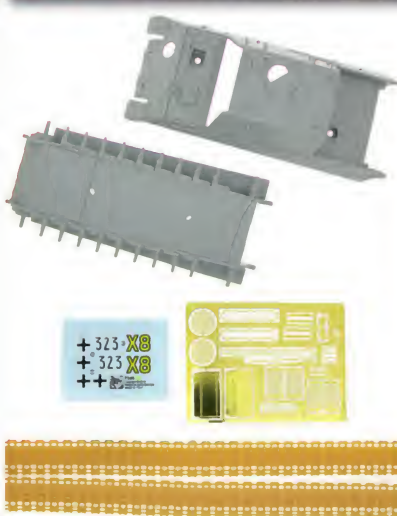
### DRAGON

#### 1:72 SCALE SD.KFZ. 222 LEICHTE PANZERSPAHWAGEN • KIT NO. 7393

The last time I built a small-scale model of the Sd. Kfz. 222 was many years ago and it was the Airfix 1:76 scale version. ICM has released a much better kit in 1:72 scale since then, and now we have an offering from Dragon. Due to the vehicle's small size, Dragon include parts for two models in the box and the overall quality is good – comparable with the ICM kit in many respects. The main body is provided as upper and lower half pieces and there is a single sprue for the rest of the parts. A single etched metal piece is included for the anti-grenade mesh that fits over the open topped turret and there are markings provided for two all-grey vehicles. As is now usual with Dragon the moulding and sharpness of the parts are first-class but the interior detail is on the sparse side. This will be fine if the etched mesh screens are fitted in the closed position but if you want to open them up you'll need to add some extra detail yourself. This is another good kit from Dragon and as mentioned it is comparable in quality to the ICM version, but you do get two in the box.

Recommended.

Alex Clark



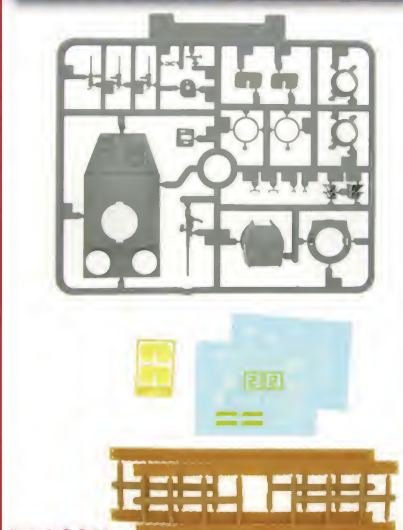
### DRAGON

#### 1:72 SCALE JAGDTIGER HENSCHEL PRODUCTION W/2 METRIC TON LIFTING CRANE • KIT NO. 7345

Dragon launched a couple of 1:72 scale Jagdtiger kits with the Porsche suspension some time back, one with zimmerit and one without, so it was only a matter of time until a Henschel version was released. It is not surprising that this contains many of the same parts with the main difference being the different suspension units. The moulding is good but it is disappointing that so many of the tools are moulded to the hull sides. Most of the parts are hard plastic along with flexible DS styrene track and a small fret of etched parts that include grills for the engine deck and chain for the lifting crane. The crane itself is an interesting addition and is provided on a separate sprue marked as Bergepanzer Tiger (P) which clearly shows where the parts came from! The overall dimensions of the kit are good and much better than those of the older Esci kit from many years back.

Highly Recommended.

Alex Clark



### DRAGON

#### 1:72 SCALE US LVT(A)-1 LANDING VEHICLES TRACKED ARMORED • KIT NO. 7387

This is a very welcome release from Dragon, providing a bit of balance from the wealth of German subjects they are currently producing. The parts are all well detailed and moulded and are also cleverly designed with quite a low number of parts. The lower hull is provided as a large single tub piece with the other parts on a couple of sprues. The suspension is fairly complex on the real vehicle but Dragon has managed to mould these as single piece units that look realistic and will be easy to assemble. The tracks are four-piece sections of DS styrene and there are photo-etched parts provided for the machine gun shields to give them a more in scale appearance.

Marking are provided for several vehicles covering all over olive drab or grey vehicles.

This is a great kit from Dragon and is particularly well thought out in terms of its engineering and layout.

Highly Recommended.

Alex Clark

### ARMORY

#### 1:72 SCALE 2S23 NONA-SVK • KIT NO. AR M72402

Armory has released a number of excellent resin detail sets for small scale armour recently, notably a variety of replacement wheels and tyres. They also have a few full kits out including this modern Russian self-propelled gun based on the BTR-80 armoured car chassis. The kit is mostly resin with some etched parts for the finer details. No markings or colour schemes are provided so modellers will have to source these themselves. The instructions are mostly images of a completed model with the various parts highlighted. The part count is quite low so it should build up without any confusion. Everything is carefully packed in a very small box and protected with bubble wrap to avoid smaller resin items getting damaged. The overall level of moulding is very good with just a little flash and the odd small air bubble to deal with. The kit has a number of improvements over the Trumpeter BTR-80 kit, notably the much improved lower hull details and far superior tyres. This is a very nice kit of a more offbeat subject and I hope we see more of a similar nature.

Recommended.

Thanks to Creative Models Limited for the sample [www.creativemodels.co.uk](http://www.creativemodels.co.uk)

Alex Clark







## ZVEZDA

### SNAP TOGETHER KITS

**1:72 SCALE GERMAN 20MM FLAK 38 WITH CREW • KIT NO. 6117**

**1:72 SCALE GERMAN SOVIET 122MM HOWITZER M-30 • KIT NO. 6122**

**1:100 SCALE PANZER III G • KIT NO. 6119**

**1:100 SCALE T-34/76 (MODEL 1940) • KIT NO. 6101**

Zvezda of Russia has recently released four new snap-together kits covering both 1:72 and 1:100 scales. These are clearly aimed at wargamers as a wargaming rules card is included with each kit. They also have only a few parts in each box, although the detail is still generally good. The tanks, a Panzer III G and a T-34/76, are both in the smaller scale of 1:100. They have single piece wheel and track assemblies for each side and even have track sag reproduced. The road wheels are solid items - understandable given the small scale and the aim for simple and quick assembly. The two guns are to 1:72 scale and both include a small base and a couple of fairly well done crew figures.

No markings are provided in any of the kits and they appear to be made of a soft and slightly greasy plastic. This isn't as soft and flexible as some of the vinyl figures that are available in small scale and seem to be some hybrid with the harder plastic usually found in kits. How well they take paint remains to be seen. Some cleaning with mild detergent before applying any paint should help.

These are reasonably well done kits with a few concessions to make them easy to assemble. With some extra detail work they will also make very nice static display models.

All Recommended.

Thanks to The Hobby Company Limited for the sample [www.hobbyco.net](http://www.hobbyco.net)

Alex Clark

## BISON DECALS

**1:72 SCALE HUNGARIAN TANKS IN WW2 PART 2 • ITEM NO. 72 028**

These are the first Bison Decals I have reviewed, and my grounding in WWII Hungarian AFVs is limited to a quick perusal of Mushroom Publications "Magyar Steel". Therefore I will restrict my comments to an assessment of the package's execution and quality rather than accuracy.

The decals come in an A5-sized package of sealed cellophane, rather than the ubiquitous zip-lock bag plastic bag favoured by many decal producers. Frankly I prefer the latter for access and storage, but it is of no great consequence.

The decals are entitled Hungarian Tanks, but as the reader will have seen a number of armoured cars, SP guns and tankettes are also included, which simply serves to add to the appeal of the package in my view.

The painting and markings guide has a lot of information to convey in three pages, and does so by reducing the vehicle outlines to scale size by the looks of them.

This is fine, but any smaller would be too much. Paint call-outs are generic, and as a novice to Hungarian armour I would find some reference to a paint colour code system helpful. But with online searches and AFV forums it's likely that help and answers should not be too far away if the need for more colour information arises.

The guide as printed in black & white is adequate for the intended task; however it can be downloaded as high resolution colour images. This is well worth doing to help with completing paint jobs (and no doubt this option also saves on production costs and final product price as well). You could also take the opportunity to enlarge the colour images to enhance clarity if required for the subjects you select to model. These downloaded images appear with my review.

The guide gives every indication of being well researched and based on photographic evidence as claimed. Where applicable, units, locations and dates are provided for the subjects covered. I feel that an interesting variety of schemes have been selected, including vehicles in both a single base colour and also with disruptive camouflage.

The decals are somewhat crammed together on a small backing paper. A half-page enlargement of the decal sheet is provided with the instructions, and this has dashed outlines around the markings applicable to each vehicle, along with identifying extra generic markings on the sheet. The quality of registration and opacity looks very good.

Bison's website advises that the decals are silk-screen printed by either Begemot (RU), Microscale Industries (US), or Fantasy Printshop (UK).

This appears to a well researched smorgasbord of Hungarian AFVs, with an interesting selection of vehicle types and finishes. Decal quality is very good, and the quite adequate instructions are greatly enhanced by the ability to download them in high resolution colour if you wish. However reference to a paint code system, be it Federal Standard or even a model paint number, would be helpful.

Overall, a very nice package with a lot of choices for small scale Hungarian armour fans.

Recommended.

Thanks to Creative Models Australia for this sample

[www.creativemodels.com.au](http://www.creativemodels.com.au)

Mark Davies







# Figures

- A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...



## TRUMPETER

### 1:35 SCALE MODERN US SOLDIERS, LOGISTIC SUPPLY TEAM ITEM 00429

Some time ago Trumpeter released their very nice M1078 medium truck, and now we have a great set of figures to go with it (or any other type of cargo truck). There is a total of five figures in various poses of working and unloading/ loading, and discussing the job at hand. Inside the box are three sprues of tan plastic for the figures and their equipment, three small black sprues for the four variants of the M16/ M4s and their accessories, a decal sheet of US Desert Pattern camouflage, a decal sheet of US Woodland Pattern camouflage, and lastly a sheet of US ration boxes. The quality of these figures appears to be very nice, with good uniform details and equipment layout and some clever moulding like the one piece folded arms on one of the standing figures. I think this is a great set of figures, and it is a big bonus that they are modern. I recommend these and let's hope we see more modern subjects of this quality. Recommended.

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the samples [www.jbwholesalers.com](http://www.jbwholesalers.com)  
Andrew Judson



## DUST MODELS

### 1:35 SCALE IMPERIAL JAPANESE TANK COMMANDER (IN WINTER UNIFORM) • ITEM D35029

The Dust range of kits is set in an alternative timeline. It relies heavily on the premise of alien technology prolonging and improving World War II weapons systems. The range of Dust kits is, in my opinion, aimed primarily at the collector. I say this, as the packaging (in both an upper and lower vac form clear trays) looks to be aimed at this target audience. To complement the Dust range, the manufacturer has released a range of figures. While some are clearly science fiction based, this one can be used in a historically accurate context.

The figure itself has just four dark grey resin parts with very small casting blocks attached to them. No casting imperfections were encountered on any of the parts. In fact, this is some of the best resin casting I have seen. The dark grey resin really brings out the detail. The facial detail is of note, as the Japanese features of the face are captured well. The so-called cold weather boukan you tanker helmet is very well done. The main body of the figure sports a cold weather rabbit lined jacket and is also really nice, with the fabric folds and creases in the uniform being rendered to a very high standard. The box top states that the figure is 1:35 scale, but it scales out to 54mm (or 32nd). Overall though, this is a very impressive figure. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Paolo Parente's Dust for the sample [www.dustgame.com](http://www.dustgame.com)  
Luke Pitt

## BLACK DOG

### 1:35 SCALE CANADIAN SOLDIER TEAM IN AFGHANISTAN • ITEM NO. F35018

Winning the hearts and minds of the Afghan people has been one of Canada's missions in Afghanistan for some time. Black Dog Model Company producing two modern Canadian Infantry figures will without a doubt also win over modellers looking for high quality resin figures. Canadian troops deployed to Afghanistan in 2002 and since that time there has been only a very small amount of Canadian figures produced as AFV crews.

This new figure set contains sixteen resin parts to build two casually posed Canadian Infantrymen in Afghanistan. The figures are full sized standing figures are cast wearing CADPAT uniforms, Model 4100 Personal Body Armour, CG634 helmets, and carrying C7A2 rifles.

The first figure is posed standing with his C7A2 in a two handed downward muzzle position. This figure's body armour is fitted with the shoulder pads, a modular load-bearing vest is over the armour, and he is wearing knee pads. There is no helmet band or night vision harness on the helmet. The figure's pants are bloused above his combat boots.

The second figure is in a relaxed standing pose with a C7A2 muzzle down in his right hand. The body armour is void of the shoulder pads and overtop a different style modular vest is worn. This figure has a dual magazine pouch attached to the left leg and a small tactical pack attached to the right leg. The pants are portrayed in the commonly seen unbloused manner. Setting this figure apart is the small pack worn with the radio flex antenna sticking out the top. There is no other communications equipment to indicate the figure is carrying a radio. This figure's helmet is fitted with the night vision harness.

Both figures have separate heads and helmets, however; the heads seem a bit narrow. Both figure's hands appear to be void of gloves. Most Infantrymen while on missions will be seen wearing some type of combat glove.

Also of note is that both C7A2 are fitted with the Elcan C79 sight and no other visible modifications such as an EoTech sight, tactical light, infrared laser, or add-on fore grip are included. The casting detail of the figures is very sharp. The cleanup and assembly of the figures should be very easy. These modern Canadian figures are a very welcome addition to any vignette or diorama depicting Canadian troops in Afghanistan. These figures are available as a set or individually. It would be fantastic if Black Dog released further Canadian figures such as C9A2 LMG or C6 GPMG gunners. Thanks to Black Dog for the sample [www.blackdog.cz](http://www.blackdog.cz)

Jason Bobrowich





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## Y-MODELLE

### 1:35 SCALE LEOPARD 2A4M CAN CONVERSION • ITEM NO. Y35-119

The Canadian Leopard 2A4M CAN is an upgraded ex-Dutch Leopard 2A4NL.

German Model Producer Y-Modelle has created a 1:35 scale Leopard 2A4M CAN. The fast production of this 1:35 conversion is amazing, with the actual tank being deployed into combat and a conversion for this very modern Canadian tank being released in such close proximity.

The conversion depicts the Canadian Leopard 2A4M CAN without the Barracuda MCS. The five tanks in Afghanistan are deployed with the Barracuda MCS but don't fret. The Canadian combat mission ends in July 2011 and more than likely we will see these tanks in the future without the Barracuda MCS and probably without the slat armour sections mounted as well. The Y-Modelle conversion is designed for use with the Hobby Boss Leopard 2A4 #82401 kit.

The conversion consists of 101 resin parts and two photo etched parts. The overall appearance of the parts is very good. The main hull and turret parts are cast flawlessly and I could not detect any air bubbles. The slat sections are cast in resin. This creates a couple of issues in that they are nice and thin but they are fragile when handled. The other issue is that there is a significant amount of resin flash inside each section. With a sharp knife and taking time they will clean up nicely.

There are ten pages of instructions provided in a booklet form written in German. The instructions are acceptable but it would have been nice to have had larger images to show the blending of the conversion parts with the Hobby Boss kit. The difficulty that will likely be encountered in differentiating the multitude of slat armour support arms and where should they fit.

One part that does appear to be missing from the top of the right headlight mount is a small object seen in reference images. This is a warning light display for the driver. Also missing are the electrical connections for the plow and dozer blade cables on the rear of the right headlight mount.

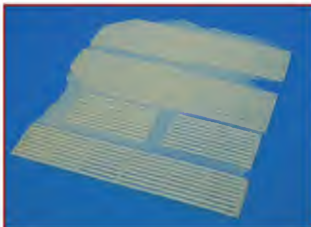
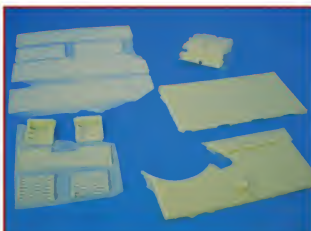
The rear hull adds conversion rectangular access hatch covers onto the Hobby Boss parts as well as a replacement upgraded driver's rear camera. A part not included with the driver's rear camera is the long cable conduit that runs along the top of the rear hull from the camera to the upper left corner of the engine deck.

On the rear hull two of the slat sections have reinforcing and integrated flip down hinged ladders so the crew can climb up the rear of the tank. Unfortunately the parts are only supplied with the ladders folded up. These sections are noticeably different looking in the conversion. Each slat section has very small bolt heads where the support arms will attach. I noted on the mantlet that the coaxial machine gun port (left upper oval hole) and the gunner's secondary sight port (right lower oval hole) are molded over and these in fact will need to be carefully drilled out.

For the final assembly of the turret conversion parts the two photo etched parts are attached to the turret top to fill in the gap created by the turret side armour modules. The Leopard 2A4M CAN conversion by Y-Modelle is a great looking kit. The conversion parts are very well cast and will contribute to an overall very modern looking Canadian tank even with some of the simplified parts. With a price tag of 49.90 Euros this is a reasonably priced high quality conversion of a brand new modern main battle tank. The conversion kit is available directly from Y-Modelle and other quality hobby shops. Highly Recommended.

Y-Modelle products are available online from their website [www.shop.y-modelle.de](http://www.shop.y-modelle.de)

Jason Bobrowich



## VOYAGER

### 1:35 SCALE PE35391 RUSSIAN BT-7 MODEL 1935

This is a great little set designed for Tamiya's 1:35 scale BT-7. The set includes photo-etched parts for hatch and toolbox hinges, tools, engine mesh cover and a beautiful metal barrel. Also included are two resin jacks.



### PE35392 RUSSIAN BT-7 MODEL 1935 FENDERS

Again designed for the Tamiya kit, a single fret of photo etch is included in this set which would enable you to replicate the many ways in which these fenders were damaged, as is seen in just about every photo of a BT-7 after a bit of action.



### PE35381 WW2 BRITISH LIGHT UTILITY CAR 10HP

This is a fantastic set to detail Tamiya's kit of the Austin Tilly. This set lets you detail the engine, a choice of 2 different grills, tool holder, tie down clamps, tarp flaps as well as the rear tail gate, which really adds to the realism of this great kit. Also included is a film of the dash instruments that sit behind a etch frame.



### PE35386 CHINESE PLA ZTZ 96 A MBT

This large, comprehensive set for the Hobby Boss kit offers five large photo-etched frets that cover engine deck screens, lift handles, straps for the fuel tanks as well as the barrel, plus many more bits and pieces that will make this stand out next to and out of the box build. Also included are twelve brass smoke discharges, steel wire and plastic rod.



### PE35384 GERMAN WW2 E-75 TANK W/SIDE SKIRTS

Another large set here, designed to go with the new Trumpeter kit. Four large frets of photo-etch deliver tool holders and mounts, engine screens rear hatch interior detail the side skirts, plus the resin attachment points. Also included in resin is a jack and tow rope ends and spacers which mount on the side armour. Also included is copper tow wire, two lengths of steel wire and two different sizes of plastic rod.



All Recommended.

Thanks to Voyager Model for the samples

[www.voyagermodel.com](http://www.voyagermodel.com)

Jason Woollett





## AEROGRAFIX CREATIVE MODELS

### 1:35 SCALE ELAND 90 MK.5 • ITEM NO. NOT QUOTED

The Eland 90 Mk.5 was a licence built variation of the French Panhard 90. Aerogرافix Creative Models from South Africa has now produced a 1:35 scale multimedia model of the Eland 90 Mk.5.

This is the first that I have heard of this company, but the kit is quite impressive for a small manufacturer. Aerogرافix's Eland 90 comprises 32 parts in grey coloured resin, a metal barrel, five parts custom cut from white styrene and a further five pieces in an undetermined material – but more on this later!

The resin is crisply detailed and nicely cast. Both the hull and the turret are solid with hatches moulded closed, so you won't be displaying any crew figures for this project. Parts breakdown is cleverly done. Each of the four suspension units and mudguards is cast as a single resin piece. The turret is presented as a single piece too, including hollow lifting hooks and mantlet cast in place. These thoughtful engineering touches should make assembly a breeze.

The rear hull section incorporating the engine deck is a separate part, suggesting that we might see other variants such as the French Panhard 90 in the future. This would be a good thing, as the Panhard 90 wore some colourful schemes in French and Argentine service, to name but a few.

The large castings and the wheels are ready to use almost straight from the box. They will just need a quick cleanup by rubbing the joining surfaces against a piece of flat medium grade sandpaper to remove any excess resin.

Smaller parts are cast onto resin strips. These should be easy to free with a razor saw. The remaining parts include a turret ring, mud flaps and stowage frame brackets cut from different thicknesses of white plastic sheet. The sand channel and the hull turret ring extensions seem to be laser cut from some type of synthetic material. It is gold in colour on one side and a glossy tortoiseshell on the reverse, but the parts are precisely cut and crisply presented.

A metal barrel and a screw complete the package.

Instructions are offered on two A4 sheets. They tell us that the Eland 90 was painted overall Dark Earth without exception, which appears to be correct for the machine in South African service. However, some South African Elands were handed over to Rhodesia, and at least a few of these seem to have picked up a disruptive camouflage of tan and green. Neither Rhodesian nor South African Eland 90s seem to carry markings of any kind.

Aerogرافix's 1:35 scale Eland 90 is a unique and impressive little kit from this new company. The small number of parts and thoughtful kit breakdown should make this a relatively fast and easy build too.

At £70 it is not cheap, but it will certainly stand out against all those Panzers on the table at your local model club!

Highly Recommended.

Aerogرافix's 1:35 scale Eland 90 Mk.5 is available online from 30 Degrees South [www.30degreesouth.co.uk](http://www.30degreesouth.co.uk)  
**Brett Green**



## ITALERI

### 1:35 SCALE SEMOVENTE L40 DA 47/32 • ITEM NO. 6477

The Semovente L40 da 47/32 was a light Italian tank destroyer based on the chassis and hull of the L6/40 tank. It was fitted with the 47mm gun as its main armament. Unfortunately, by the time this little vehicle entered service, the gun was ineffective against Allied armour encountered in North Africa. Despite its shortcomings, the Semovente L40 was used extensively in the last stage of the war in North Africa. After the September 1943 armistice, Germany commandeered and operated a number of these vehicles.

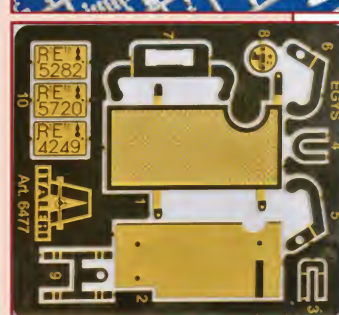
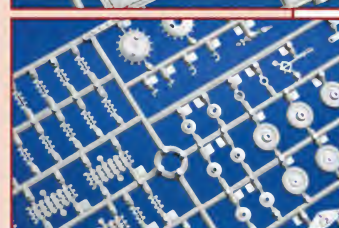
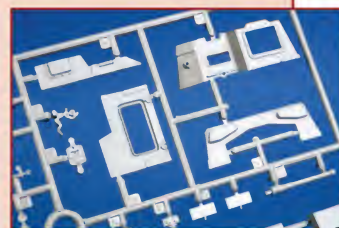
Italeri's 1:35 scale Semovente L40 da 47/32 comprises 251 parts in light grey plastic. Like its full-sized counterpart, much of this model is based on the earlier L6/40 tank. In fact, three of the four sprues have already made an appearance in that earlier kit. The new sprue supplies the fixed superstructure, forward upper hull, the new 47mm gun and other details specific to the Semovente. The open-topped vehicle has been equipped with a plastic moulded cover, folded back in the open position. The open top will reveal a decent amount of interior detail inside the fighting compartment and driver's position.

Moulding quality is generally very good on the exterior surfaces, but the interior is peppered with many ejector pin circles and sink marks. The running gear looks well detailed, and tracks are made up from a combination of lengths and individual links.

Three marking options are offered – two Italian and one commandeered German example.

Italeri's 1:35 scale Semovente L40 da 47/32 is a nicely detailed little kit with some interesting camouflage options. Recommended.

Thanks to Italeri for the sample [www.italeri.com](http://www.italeri.com)  
**Brett Green**







Andy King examines HobbyBoss' 1:35 scale kit of the mid-turret design of Porsche's Tiger replacement prototype.

## PORSCHE PANZER PROTOTYPE

**T**he VK 4502 (P) was a Porsche design for the next heavy tank to replace the Tiger I. Based on a redesigned VK 4501 chassis, one proposal was to have the turret in the middle and engine to the rear, the other to have the turret to the rear and engine in the middle.

With production to commence in 1942 for 200 vehicles, the Porsche project was cancelled later that year when it was realised the vehicle would not amount to anything. The contract was then awarded to Henschel for their VK4503 (H) or King Tiger as it became known. However, fifty P-2 turrets that had been produced for the Porsche vehicle were adapted to fit the initial batch of King Tigers, only to be replaced with the Henschel H-3 design later on.

This new release from HobbyBoss is based on Porsche's

mid turret design and contains over 600 parts that includes 240 individual track links, photo-etched engine grills, wire cable and a decal sheet.

The kit is nicely moulded in a sand coloured styrene with minimal mould seams and virtually flash free. The instructions are well laid out and it also has a separate colour sheet for the painting guide although, unsurprisingly for a subject like this, it is a pretty dull scheme of overall German grey.

The level of detail on the exterior is okay if a bit bland. You may want to add texture to the armour plate and rework the moulded weld seams to jazz it up. There is no fancy metal barrel in the box so you will have to make do with the kit item or source the 88mm L/71 gun from elsewhere.

The track links are moulded in black styrene and are reasonable enough plus they don't have any ejector pin-marks, which is always a bonus. The only clean up will be from the sprue attachment points.

One thing I did notice is the turret roof. The armour plate was increased in thickness from 25mm on the prototype to 40mm on the production item and the kit item features the thicker armour. To make it accurate for the

prototype you would have to cut around the top and reposition it flush with the turret sides.

Where this kit really scores though is with the turret interior. Hobbyboss have gone to town in here with fully detailed gun breech, ammo racks, turret roof and floor, even a liner to bulk out the thickness of the armour plate. Impressive!

I must admit I'm a bit underwhelmed by the choice of subject as it's yet another 'Paper Panzer' that never made it into production. The description on the box alludes to a single completed prototype listed in the Panzer Kompanie Kummersdorf inventory for March 1945, which wouldn't surprise me as all sorts would have been used as long as they could move and shoot. What I did find more interesting was the fact that the turret (and all that lovely detail) was actually used on the first batch of King Tigers, something to consider if you are super detailing an early production one with a P-2 turret.

For fans of 'What-if' or 'Paper Panzers' this is a good enough kit and the recommended retail price is very reasonable for the turret alone. You could spend the same amount or more just for an aftermarket interior detail set. ■

Thanks to Creative Models Limited for the sample  
[www.creativemodels.co.uk](http://www.creativemodels.co.uk)



The track links are cleanly moulded with no pin marks present.



The photo-etched engine grills.



Turret floor.



Turret base.



A small taster of the turret interior detail.



The weld seams are a bit weedy and could do with beefing up.



The rather bland surface detail.



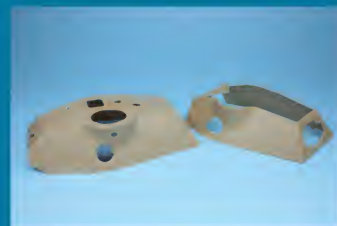
The engraving on the ends of the interlocking armour plates.



The hull seems to be a good fit.



The liner inside certainly helps with the look of heavy armour plate.



The turret and liner.



The level of detail on the drive sprockets.



### July 3rd

IPMS Staffordshire Moorlands Model Show presents in association with 235 City of Stoke on Trent SQDN ATC its second Model Show. To be held at The TA Centre, Martin Leake House, Stonor Street (off Waterloo Road), Cobridge, Stoke on Trent. ST6 3HJ. Doors open between 10am and 4.30pm. There will be an Open Competition, a separate Competition for Local ATC Squadrons, Raffle & Tombola in support of Help For Heroes and the ATC. Refreshments and Bar provided by the TA, many Clubs & Traders free ample parking. Admission Adults £2.50 Concessions & Children £1.50. Further details from, Show Manager John Lingwood: smmc1@live.co.uk Club website: <http://smmc.moonfruit.com> or Club Secretary Phil Wain: 01782 256286.

### July 16th

AMPS CENTRAL SOUTH CAROLINA MODEL SHOW  
 AMPS Central SC Chapter in conjunction with the Midlands Chapter of SCMA hosts our inaugural show. This is the first AMPS-type show in our area, so you won't want to miss it! Contest will be organized and run according to AMPS National Contest Rules. Special show theme is MIDEAST TURMOIL: PAST AND PRESENT.  
 Location: Gymnasium, 432 Ball

Park Road, Lexington (Columbia), SC 29072.

Times: 09:00am until 16:30pm. (Vendors allowed early entry for set-up.)

Entry Fees (first 3 models; additional models extra): Adults \$12; AMPS Members (with ID) \$10; Juniors (17 and under) \$5; General Admission FREE. Vendor tables available for rent, or for more information, see our website [www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org](http://www.ampscentralsouthcarolina.org) For vendor sales or directions, contact us at [info@ampscentralsouthcarolina.org](mailto:info@ampscentralsouthcarolina.org), or call Mike Roof, Chapter Contact: (803) 318-1767 or Tim Darrah, Vendor Sales, (803) 481-7201.

### July 23rd

TORBAY MILITARY MODELLING SOCIETY MODEL SHOW 2011  
 This is the club's 40th Anniversary with IPMS TORBAY & SOUTH DEVON Saturday 23RD July 2011 Torquay Town Hall, Castle Circus, Torquay TQ1 3RD. Special competition theme this year: Korean War 1950/53 Club & Trade Stands. Competition, Refreshments. 9.30am to 4 pm [www.torabayipms.org.uk](http://www.torabayipms.org.uk) Contact Paul Farrar [paulfarrar@live.co.uk](mailto:paulfarrar@live.co.uk)

### September 3rd

Cornwall Model Show  
 The annual Cornwall Model Show will be held from 10:00am to 6:30pm at St Johns Hall.

Alverton Street, Penzance, Cornwall. TR18 2QR  
 Traders, Competitions, Clubs will be there.

Admission: Adult £1.50 Child £1  
 Contact: Arthur Johnson [ipmswestcornwall@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ipmswestcornwall@hotmail.co.uk)

### September 10th

The Edmonton International AFV Model Show, Open House & Military Vehicle Display. The show will be at HMCS Nonsuch, 117 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T5G-3E8, Canada. We will have Military Artists: Ron Volstad and Robert Bailey present. Registration 09:00 til 12:00, show goes to 6pm. Food supplied by a fundraising organisation.

Army Motors will be present to display historical Military Vehicles, with re enactors as well. Present day Military vehicles and open house.

Contact for more info:  
 Anthony Sowards: [teutonicknights@shaw.ca](mailto:teutonicknights@shaw.ca)  
 Jon Baniak: [jonbaniak@shaw.ca](mailto:jonbaniak@shaw.ca)  
 Rod Dumouchel: [krdumouc@telus.net](mailto:krdumouc@telus.net)  
 Website: [www.aafvms.ca](http://www.aafvms.ca)  
 EIAFVMS - Po Box 71071, Edmonton, Alberta, T5E-6J8

### October 20th-23rd

The IPMS-Hellas Annual Expo - Competition will take place from 20 to 23 October 2011, at the "Apollon" conference center in Piraeus, Greece. The competition will be held in

the Main Hall and there shall be a separate hall for the trade stands.

More information and details as we go on, will be published on our webpage: [www.ipms-hellas.gr](http://www.ipms-hellas.gr) Any questions should be sent to this e-mail: [ipms-hellas@windowslive.com](mailto:ipms-hellas@windowslive.com)

### October 21st-22nd

IPMS USA Region II Convention New Jersey IPMS once again is hosting the IPMS USA Region II Convention, we named JerseyCon II, at a new location - The Wyndham Hotel & Convention Center, Route 73, off Exit 4 on the New Jersey Turnpike, Mt Laurel, New Jersey. This new location offers better lighting, more vendor space and a better display area than the previous location. Show Theme: "1941 - America Enters the War". For more details contact Big Bill [tomcatter53@optimum.net](mailto:tomcatter53@optimum.net) or the club's website [www.njipms.org](http://www.njipms.org)

### October 29th

Gravesham Military Modelling Society Open Day  
 The 2011 GMMS Open Day will be held on Saturday 29th October 2011 from 10 am until 4:00 pm. The show will include club displays, trade stands, open competition, refreshments and a raffle.  
 The venue is: Chalk Parish Hall, Lower Higham Road, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent  
 For more information, visit the GMMS website [www.gmms.org.uk](http://www.gmms.org.uk)





## PHOTO-ETCH A MODELLING NIGHTMARE

**P**icture if you will a middle-aged man, an optivisor adorning his balding head, crouched like the feeble creature he is on all fours looking for something on the floor. His son walks into the room and says "What the hell! Are you okay dude?"

"No" comes the cry, "I've lost a part"! His son then proceeds to take one look and to his father's utter frustration finds the part. I have found myself in this rather sad (although some may say typical situation) on many occasions and I am sure that it is familiar to all of you when dealing with photo-etched parts.

Two things come to mind. The first, is what sort

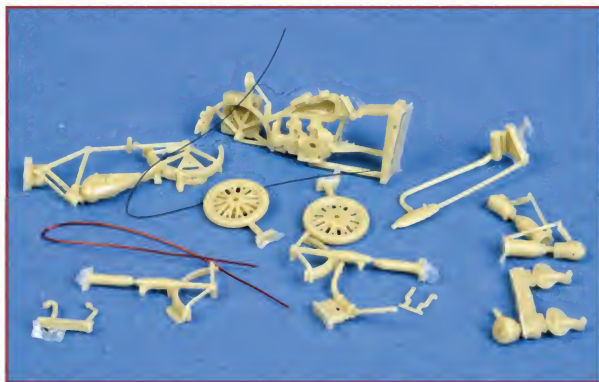
of a picture am I presenting when someone walks into the room and they find me like this? Let's face, it's not a good look! Secondly, why don't photo-etched manufacturers give you spares of all the really small parts that inevitably jump from your tweezers onto the floor. I kid you not, this happens to me all the time. I am beginning to think my body is actually repelling parts! It's like, the big guy upstairs is saying "why are you modelling dude... it's a dumb hobby!"

All jokes aside, however, I find not all photo etch is engineered to be user friendly. Some manufacturers would have you build up photo-etched assemblies from brass when a thick piece of plastic card



would do. Come on guys, let's not fill up the fret with parts that really can't be made. Give us some spares that you know we will lose! But then again, maybe this is a clever marketing ploy...

Until next time *Luke Pitt*



### GASO.LINE

**BMW R/75 MOTORBIKE • KIT NO.: GAS50212K**

What we appear to have here is basically the old and out of production Bandi kit cast in resin. The kit was always a pretty accurate kit and has translated well into the resin medium. The kit is separated into 15 very well cast pieces with a length of copper wire (for the plumbing hardware). The only minor criticism are the spokes as they are overly thick, but can be replaced with photo-etched items from Tom's Model works ([www.tomsmodelworks.com](http://www.tomsmodelworks.com)). I like this kit as it can and will lend itself to many applications. It is also very well priced and a much better alternative to an overly priced original Bandi kit that is almost impossible to find now.

Highly Recommended.  
Thanks to Gaso.Line for the sample  
[www.quarter-kit.com](http://www.quarter-kit.com)

Luke Pitt



### VERLINDEN PRODUCTIONS

**MEDIEVAL GERMAN CASTLE REMAINS (RESIN & CERAMIC) • KIT NO.: 2325**

The kit pieces are packed in a very sturdy box with an excellent colour photo on the top showing how the kit can be used in a diorama. Upon opening the box you are presented with a very tightly fitting package of resin and ceramic pieces. The ceramic pieces have been individually bubble wrapped to ensure they remain breakage free and are free from any casting defects. The resin pieces are in separated in their own Ziploc bag and were also free from breakage and any casting defects. There are no instructions included and you will need to rely on the box top photos and your own ingenuity to decide how it all goes together. The resin pieces are supplied to construct the small loft that sits upon the castle walls. These are well cast with no visible defects and include some very well done timber and board effects on the exterior wall pieces. The roof pieces are nice renditions of a tiled roof structure. The pieces are all embedded on top of a thin sliver of resin overflow that will have to be cut away and sanded off carefully to avoid any damage.

The ceramic pieces are also well made with some very intricate detail and beautifully rendered surface stonework cast into the castle lower walls and supporting wall structures. I have always liked ceramic cast pieces finishes for their roughness and ability to replicate stone structures very realistically. Care will be needed when fitting the pieces together and onto any type of base as the thinner ceramic can be quite brittle and in my experience not as forgiving as resin. That said any construction damage can be repaired fairly easily or perhaps left as is to add to the look you might be trying to create.

In conclusion, this is a very nice multimedia kit using the best materials to good effect and will give modellers even more opportunities to show their 1/48 scale kits in a very interesting way.

Highly Recommended.  
Thanks to Verlinden for the sample [www.verlindenonline.com](http://www.verlindenonline.com)  
Ross Ferro



### GASO- LINE

**STURMGESCHUTZ SIG 33B AUSF.PZ.III (CONVERSION FOR TAMIYA KIT NO: 32507) • KIT NO: 48029**

The 1:48 scale products range from Gaso-Line continues to set a high standard for resin conversions and this kit is no exception. Packed in a sturdy cardboard box, we have 30 crisp cast resin pieces and one fret of photo etch. The instructions are well laid out with pictures and reference numbers identifying all the individual bits by name (in French). Gaso-Line has also thoughtfully provided some historical reference information regarding development of the vehicle and also included are a couple of photos of the actual vehicle. Fitting of the resin pieces is aided by colour photos and part placement numbers indicating where everything goes on the finished conversion kit.

The casemate is cast in situ with the upper hull. The use of the original Tamiya upper hull is obvious with Gaso-Line adding many subtle detail touches that truly enhance the finished product. The surface detail like the bolted armour and the lower bolted glacis plate is very well done and removal of these pieces from their casting plugs will need some care.

The other smaller resin pieces include the various hatches, storage boxes as well as replacement rear idler wheels. The main gun and cradle are also well cast with no pin holes or seam lines to speak of. Once again some care will be needed when removing the pour plugs and resin flash from some of these pieces. The photo etch from Hauler is a nice inclusion and further adds to the detail included in this kit.

I have checked the fit of the conversion part upper hull and casemate to the target kit and it is very good, which will make construction and completion of the model so much more enjoyable. Top marks to Gaso-Line for producing another excellent 1:48 conversion kit.

Highly Recommended.  
Thanks to Gaso.Line for the sample [www.quarter-kit.com](http://www.quarter-kit.com)  
Ross Ferro



Luke Pitt hosts MMI's examination of the growing world of 1:48 scale military models, figures and accessories.

## MMI 1:48 Scale Q&A with Cesar Rodriguez

Cesar Rodriguez is 41 years of age and a Master Sergeant with the US Air Force. He grew up in New Jersey but, currently lives in Maryland, USA. What I like about Cesar's work is he takes risks. His style is not a slavish duplication of others but rather an interpretation of what he likes. He has created an individual and inspiring style. It is a pleasure then to have him with us this month.

### THE INTERVIEW

**Luke:** Hi Cesar. Good to have you with us. What would you consider to be your best 1:48 scale model and why?

**Cesar:** *My latest project is always I believe my best. I learn from past mistakes and improve on the next. Keeping notes of what "works" and what does not always helps out tremendously. I'm proud of my older projects but seem to look back at them as a platform for the future project--a way of bettering oneself.*

**Luke:** What is the most influential 1:48 scale model you have seen in print and why?

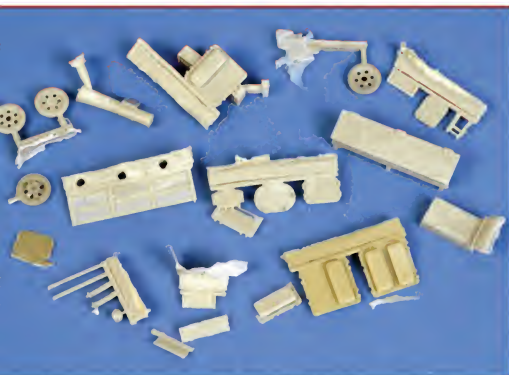
**Cesar:** *I don't have a particular kit or modeler in mind; all are good in their own right and category.*

**Luke:** Now that's a politically correct answer! If you had to pick one kit that should be made in 1:48 scale, what would that be?

**Cesar:** *I would definitely have to say the German WWII RSO but would like to see it manufactured and built by TAMIYA. It's something about that vehicle (half truck and half tank) that catches my eye all the time.*

**Luke:** Thanks for your time Cesar, I am always inspired by your builds and know a lot of others are too. Tell me is there anything you would like to add, to encourage 1:48 scale?

**Cesar:** *Never give up and take in constructive criticism all the time. Ask the "experts" how the technique was applied. If you're into competitions, go to seminars and ask questions. There are also a lot of techniques out there; people try some and abandon them at the first site that it does not render any desired results. Keep at it; remember to practice, practice and practice again. You should see your models transform after each one if you apply these concepts. 1:48 scale kits are perfect for me, not too big and not too small. They are big enough so that you can actually apply plenty of photo-etch material on them and small enough where you can store them anywhere. Finally, have fun; remember why you build models!*



### PROPAGANDA KOMPANY

#### 1:48 SCALE RESIN WHEEL REPLACEMENT SETS

ITEM NO.: 482100 CIVIL WHEELS FOR 2 1/2 TON (TAMIYA)

ITEM NO.: 482137 CIVIL WHEELS FOR OPEL BLITZ (ITALERI)

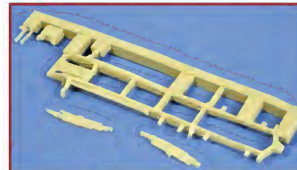
These replacement wheel sets are individually packaged in a small Ziploc bag with twelve wheels for the 2 1/2 ton truck and seven for the Opel Blitz. There are no instructions to speak of but in reality they are wheels so where else are they going to go? I started with the updated for the 2 1/2 ton truck by comparing the tyres to the ones provided in the kit and a few things were immediately apparent. The

width of the tyre looks too wide for a WWII civilian tyre, which were typically narrow in profile. The outside radius of the tyre is also noticeably smaller than the kit tyre and this may either enhance or detract from the look of using these resin tyres. The casting is satisfactory with some resin flash to take care. The rear dual wheels have been cast to fit together with a pin on the inner wheel and a hole in the outer wheel mating surfaces. However, if you align the wheels in this way one wheel has the pour plug scar on top and the other on the bottom and I found it simpler to sand and off the tiny pin and line up the wheels by sight to conceal the pour plug scar on the bottom of both tyres. The Opel Blitz wheels are an entirely different matter. I have cast some resin wheels myself and I think the ones supplied are nowhere near the level of my home made efforts. They suffer from quite a lot of resin flash and also share the pour plug scar alignment issues as per the wheels for the Tamiya 2 1/2 ton truck. I feel as though these tyres need to be remastered and definitely cast with more attention to detail.

There are quite a few manufacturers offering stunning resin update sets and I would only recommend the Tamiya 2 1/2 ton truck set if you really had to make your cargo truck look different to everyone else's. The Opel Blitz tyres were a disappointment and are really outclassed by other resin wheel sets currently on the market. Not Recommended.

Thanks to Propaganda Kompany for the review samples  
[www.propaganda-kompany.com](http://www.propaganda-kompany.com)

Ross Ferro







Luke Pitt is impressed with Italeri's simple but well-detailed 88mm Flak 37 gun in his favourite scale of 1:48.

# ICONIC 88

Italeri continues to release mainstream 1:48 scale military plastic kits and, as I have said in the past, should be congratulated for their efforts.

Weapons of war seldom become legend, but the German 8.8cm gun must surely rank as one of the true icons of World War II. Its deployment and skilful use of a mere 13 of such weapons during Operation Battleaxe stopped the Allied advance dead with the 8.8cm gun claiming almost half of the advancing English Tanks.

The only other mainstream 1:48 scale release of this gun was many years ago by Bandai. At the time, the kit was one of this maker's best and to be honest can still be built into a fine model. It is pleasing then that Italeri has shown the foresight of releasing a latter version of this gun.

This new 1:48 scale model from Italeri is spread over three light grey sprues with some fine detail in evidence. The carriage units, for instance, are moulded in one piece and as such, include the mudguards and carriage together and one unit. Traditionally, moulding like this can be devoid

of detail and often has a "chunky" feel too it. In this case, however, it has been masterfully done with the mudguards themselves being remarkably thin and the carriage having all the detail you really need.

Two full sprues make up the running gear and are very well detailed. The tyres and hubs are molded together on this sprue and results in a tyre that has the correct diameter and width. The detail however, is somewhat compromised, as the tyres themselves are hollow on the inside mating surfaces. This of course is not a problem, as the hollow portion will not be seen when the two tyres are glued together. This sprue also includes the outriggers, but have the stabilization spikes molded on. This is fine for 80 percent of applications but if you want them hammered in (for firing applications) then you may have to scratch build them out of strip.

The last sprue consists of the main gun barrel split in two with both sections showing crisp detail on all surfaces. The main gun shield included is again well

detailed, although it may need thinning on the inside surfaces. The gun cradle is very well detailed with crisp details in evidence. A small well-printed decal sheet is included with the first option in a Dunkelgelb (Sand) base in North Africa, with the second in a soft edged camouflage Dunkelgelb (Sand) pattern over panzer gray in Russia and the third in a combination of Olivgrun (Green) and Schokoladenbrau (Red Brown) soft-edged camouflage pattern on a Dunkelgelb (Sand) base. I know that some reviewers have dismissed this kit as being somewhat oversimplified but I, for one, welcome it, and believe it is well worthwhile.

The kit has no obvious "fatal flaws" and any simplification of engineering results in a quicker build. The bottom line here is that detail is not compromised and I believe this kit offers the best of both worlds. I feel sure that Hauler will soon offer one of their no-nonsense updates that will address any issues that this kit may have. ■

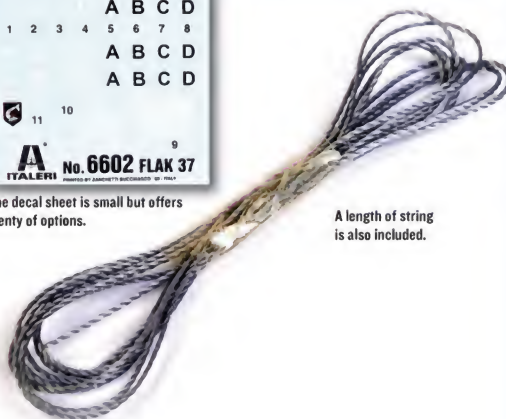
Thanks to Italeri for the sample [www.italeri.com](http://www.italeri.com)



Three varied camouflage finishes are suggested on the back of the side-opening box.



The decal sheet is small but offers plenty of options.



A length of string is also included.



The main section of the characteristic cruciform gun mount.



The kit features plenty of detail moulded straight onto the parts.



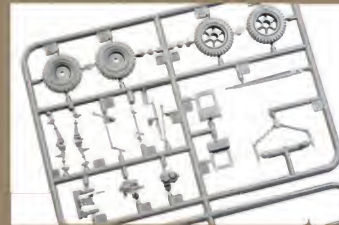
Moulding quality is very good indeed.



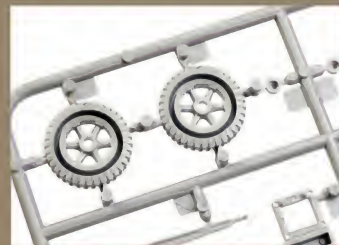
The gun barrel is split into left and right halves in front and rear sections.



The front and rear carriages are moulded in the minimum number of parts, but detail is barely compromised.



Carriage detail parts.



The rear of the wheels.



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## RED DAWN

Luke Pitt presents his 1:48 scale Hobby Boss T-34/76, and Bruce Culver brings us his Think Tank reference piece on the subject.



## TOPLESS TWENTY

Kev Smith builds Tamiya's 1:35 scale M20 scout car in a heavily weathered winter scheme.



## THE NOISE FILLED METAL BOX

Zack Sex scratch builds a 1:35 scale Panhard M3 armoured car in a new Feature Article.

## MAD MAX

José Brito takes us to Afghanistan with his 1:35 scale MMK Tatra 815 SOT.



# Next Issue

On sale July 7th 2011

# Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

ISSUE No.63 July 2011,  
PUBLISHED June 2nd 2011

Editor; Brett Green  
Group Editor; Marcus Nicholls  
Publisher; Alan Harman  
Graphic Design; Alex Hall  
Advertising Manager; Colin Spinner  
Advertising Sales; Mark Peacock  
Advertising Assistant; Joe Brown  
Office Manager; Paula Gray  
Subscription Manager; Andrea Berridge  
Admin Assistant; Hannah McLaurie  
MMI Website; Alex Hall

Printed by;  
Symbian Print Intelligence, Hertfordshire, UK

Distributed by;  
Seymour Distribution  
2 East Poultry Avenue, London, EC1A 9PT  
Tel; 020 7429 4000

Newstrade;  
Select Publisher Services  
3 East Avenue, Bournemouth, BH3 7BW  
Tel; 01202 586848  
Email; tim@selectps.com

Model Military International is published on the first Thursday of each month by;  
ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX UK  
www.modelmilitary.com  
Tel; +44 (0)1525 222573  
Fax; +44 (0)1525 222574

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Subscription rates are;  
1 year (12 issues); £41 UK  
£54 Europe  
£67 Worldwide (Airmail)

Binders; £9.95 (UK),  
£10.95 (Europe)  
£11.95 (Worldwide)

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Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

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# The Last Post..

## CROSSOVER MODELLING

### TRISTAR 1:35 SCALE FIESELER FI 156 C-3/TROP STORCH

**S**urely I can't be the only one.

There must be many other armour modellers out there who have another modelling interest too - railways, ships, aircraft, cars, whatever.

To a certain extent, mismatched scales have always separated these modelling categories. Traditional scales for military vehicles have been 1:35 and 1:76; the most popular aircraft kits are 1:32, 1:48 and 1:72; while cars are most frequently seen in scales including 1:24 and 1:43.

Recently, however, we have seen some seepage between the scales. Tamiya single-handedly revitalised the dormant 1:48 scale military vehicle and figure market over the last five years or so; while a few aircraft kits have also recently been released in the military scale of 1:35.

There has never been a better time for crossover modellers like me who build both military vehicles and model aircraft. 1:48 scale boasts a good selection on both sides of the divide, and it is a compact enough size to create some impressive composite dioramas without taking over your house.

Living larger, Bronco offers a 1:35 scale Piper Cub, while Tristar has several versions of the famous

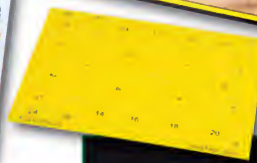
Fieseler Fi 156 Storch. The roles of both of these communication and observation aircraft are closely linked to land forces, so there are plenty of excuses to get up and personal with jeeps, Kubelwagens, half-tracks and more.

Tristar's latest aircraft release is their 1:35 scale Fieseler Fi 145 C-3/Trop Storch. Tristar's new Storch comprises around 168 parts in tan coloured plastic and ten parts in clear.

1:35 scale is quite big for an aircraft, and Tristar has taken advantage of this size to showcase a detailed cockpit interior inside the big greenhouse canopy. The pilot's seat has a separate optional cushion for the back and squab. Alternate rear seats are provided for either a passenger (with a backrest) or a gunner (a simple disk). Harness straps are not provided.

The engine is a nice little model in its own right too, being made up from 22 plastic parts. The four cowl pieces are separate, so you can leave some or all of the panels off to display the Argus engine.

The bulk of the canopy is cleverly moulded as one clear part, although the entry door and portside undercut are separate. The top of the canopy has four decent sized locating tabs for the



wings moulded in place too.

The narrow undercarriage is reinforced with steel rod, so it maintains its stinky proportions but will be strong enough to hold the weight of the model.

The full-span fixed leading edge slats and the big flaps and ailerons are provided as separate parts. Each of the flap hinges is made up from two parts, so they may be posed up or down.

Tristar thoughtfully supplies self-adhesive painting masks for

the canopy, saving the modeller some precious time on this sometimes fiddly task.

Markings are supplied for six widely varied schemes including Luftwaffe tropical and Eastern Front, Regia Aeronautica and post-war examples operated by France, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

Tristar's 1:35 scale Storch is a really nice kit by itself, but its potential to cross over between aircraft and military subjects makes it even more appealing. ■

## ULTRACAST

### 1:35 SCALE SS TIGER COMMANDER 1944-45 • ITEM NO. 35052

Kevin McLaughlin from Ultracast slipped a couple of his 1:35 scale SS Tank Commander figures in his last review package. This is a really versatile and attractive set with two heads and five arms - obviously not all intended to be used at one time!

The figure really does look different when the alternate arms are used. He can be standing up straight, leaning forward in the cupola, or even cupping one hand to his mouth. One of the heads features a headset, while the second simply wears an officer's cap.

Although the figure is labelled as a Tiger Commander, he could really be used in pretty much any late-war SS armoured vehicle.

Ultracast's 1:35 scale SS Tiger Tank Commander will be an attractive ornament to your late-war armour projects. Grab a couple! Highly Recommended.

Available online from Ultracast's website [www.ultracast.ca](http://www.ultracast.ca)



### NEW FROM OLIVER PUBLISHING GROUP WORKHORSE: THE PANZER III IN NORTH AFRICA

The Oliver Publishing Group's next release - Workhorse: The Panzer III In North Africa by the very prolific Claude Gillono - should be available by the time this magazine hits the newsstands. This book features almost 60 black and white archive photos with 5 pages of full colour artwork depicting 20 different vehicles.

We will have more news of this new title in the next issue of Model Military International magazine.

Additional information about this and other forthcoming titles may be found on the Oliver Publishing Group's website [www.oliverpublishinggroup.com](http://www.oliverpublishinggroup.com)



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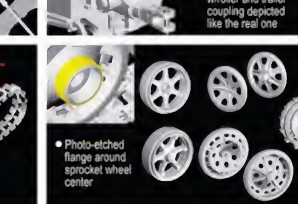
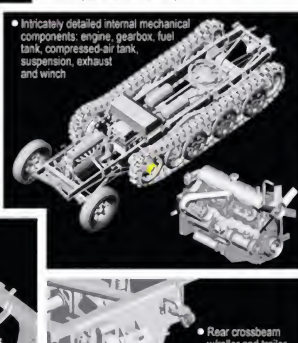
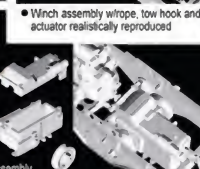
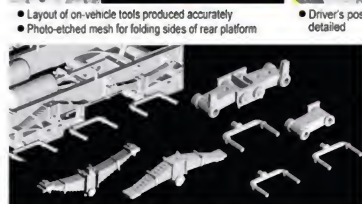
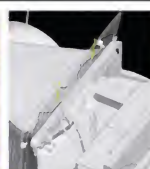
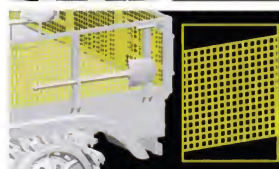
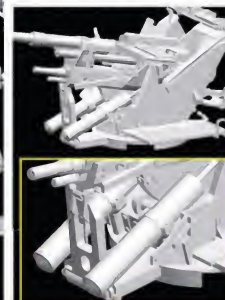
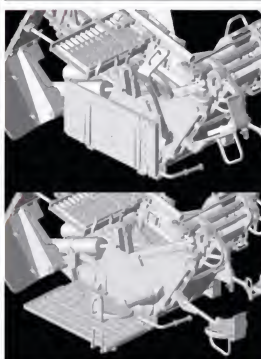
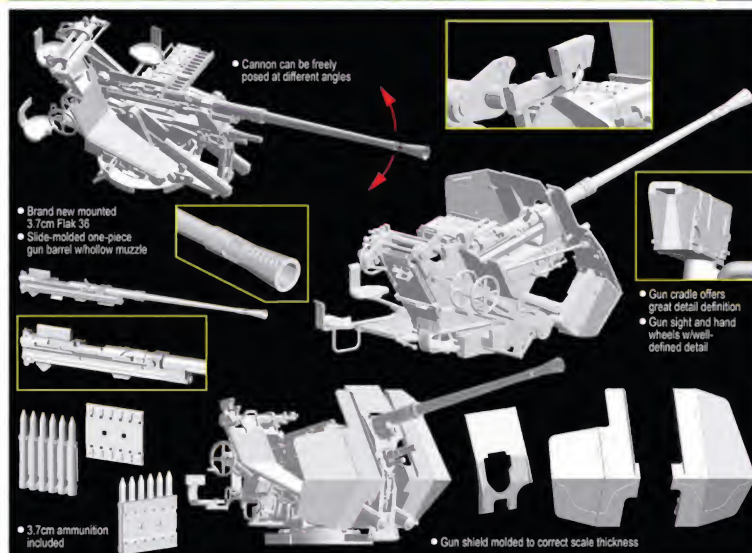
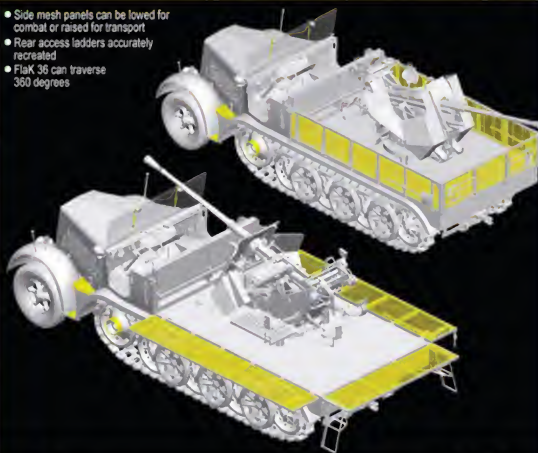
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**1/35**  
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German Sd.kfz.250/3 Greif  
Item 35113



# Courage In The Desert

## 1/35 WWII German Africa Corps Infantry Set

Item 35114

Tamiya's first German Africa Corps Infantry Set was originally released in the early days of the 1/35 Scale MM Series. 40 years later, Tamiya presents this new, completely redesigned set of Africa Corps Infantry figures. This set contains 5 figures in realistic poses, including an officer urging his unit forward, an NCO, a rifleman in firing position, an MG34 machine gunner, and a loader carrying an ammunition case. Each is depicted in tropical uniform with the officer and loader figures also featuring the goggles and long canvas boots seen in the North African desert. Adding more presence to these figure models are molded details including collar insignia and decorations as well as accessories such as separately molded hand grenades. Display these infantrymen alongside other Tamiya models such as the German Greif half-track and British Matilda tank to enable various desert diorama possibilities.

### Detail-Up Parts

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Enhance the appearance of your 1/35 scale figure models with this decal set, which includes decals to depict rank insignia, medals, and armbands on German Africa Corps, Military Police, and Waffen SS soldiers' uniforms. (Image shows several details enlarged.)



Example



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